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Sub-Saharan Africa SUPPLEMENT

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Gabon

* Bongo Discusses IMF, Raising Oil Quotas

90EF0008A Paris JEUNE AFRIQUE ECONOMIE
in French Aug 89 pp 105-108

[Interview with President Omar Bongo by JEUNE AFRIQUE ECONOMIE; Libreville, 26 July 1989]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted]

[JEUNE AFRIQUE ECONOMIE] Mr President, two years ago your country reached an agreement with the IMF. Would you list for us what this policy of structural change has achieved?

[Bongo] First of all, the recovery plan we had to implement made it possible to reduce certain state operating expenses and bring them down to levels that were more compatible with its revenues. This overall effort to clean up the state's finances resulted in a genuine stabilization of the economy which, as you know, is something you must have if you are to get an economy going again.

In sum, by enacting this rigorous plan, Gabon has recovered and strengthened its credibility in financial and international business circles.

[JEUNE AFRIQUE ECONOMIE] In Africa and elsewhere, there is no shortage of criticism of the IMF's actions. What is your view of the way the IMF stepped in?

[Bongo] Gabon has always been viewed as one of the IMF's best pupils. It is true we exerted a great deal of effort and continue to do so to reestablish our economic equilibrium. However, we find that the IMF's proposals take less and less cognizance of those social requirements that create a favorable climate for domestic peace, and this we deeply regret.

[JEUNE AFRIQUE ECONOMIE] How far advanced is your policy to get private-sector activity going again and progressively to disengage the state from the economy?

[Bongo] For several years now, we have had in place a ministerial department in charge of promoting small and medium-sized business or industry because I think that a network made up of these sorts of businesses will respond best to the Gabonese market. If they have been founded by [Gabonese] nationals, these small and medium-sized businesses and industries enjoy major tax and customs advantages.

However, the granting of new lumbering permits, which was made possible when the railroad was put into service, and the recent discovery of extensive deposits of niobium, rare earths, and phosphates represent genuine opportunities for private investment, not to mention fishing, which is still not very developed.

To get private-sector activity moving again, the state decided either to sell certain companies that belonged to

it (such as the Gabonese National Insurance and Reinsurance Company [SONAGAR] in the insurance field and the Petroleum Products Distribution Company in the field of petroleum products) or to assign some of its shares to private partners, retaining only a minority interest.

And lastly, the state has just done away with laws that made it obligatory for companies doing business in Gabon to hand over, for free, 10 percent of their capital to the state.

[JEUNE AFRIQUE ECONOMIE] What measures have been taken in the rural sector to encourage Gabonese production?

[Bongo] Several measures have been taken, the most important of which are an improvement in living conditions for people in the countryside (housing, bringing in water, electricity, etc.); roads in those areas, so harvesting can proceed under good conditions; and the creation of a farmers' bank to help finance projects.

Recently a ministerial department was set up to deal with rural integration. Working together with the department in charge of agriculture and rural development, the head of this sector will oversee, in particular, the rural sector's technical, financial, and commercial framework.

[JEUNE AFRIQUE ECONOMIE] Rabi-Kounga has refueled Gabon's hopes of again becoming an oil power to be reckoned with. How has work been progressing to tap this deposit and what does the economic future look like?

[Bongo] Gabon has always been an oil power to be reckoned with, given its status as an OPEC member others listen to, since it has filled major posts, for example, OPEC secretary general, chair of the conference, and chair of the OPEC board of governors.

Today Rabi-Kounga adds further special appeal to Gabon's oil calling and gives us an economic future, which is more than just encouraging. Beginning in 1990, Rabi-Kounga alone will produce more than all the other Gabonese fields combined, and at a much lower cost. The productivity of the Rabi wells has exceeded our predictions.

On the economic and oil front, this proves and reinforces Gabon's petroleum assets. Our production capacity has more than doubled; Rabi-Kounga is the determining factor that convinced OPEC of the necessity of thinking of a higher quota for Gabon. This year our production capacity will be in the neighborhood of 300,000 barrels per day, but we hope rapidly to break this limit owing to the major investment efforts now under way. We also hope that Gabon's final OPEC quota will allow the country to produce at full capacity, keeping in mind the financial demands made by our development.

[JEUNE AFRIQUE ECONOMIE] Recently OPEC has just met again, suggesting, through a renewed spirit of cooperation, that we will return to higher prices for crude

oil. Mr President, how do you see the oil market moving in the near future and what is Gabon's strategy in this regard?

[Bongo] Gabon's strategy on the oil market is based on our conviction that the price of oil should be sufficiently remunerative to compensate the efforts of the producing countries in view of the tapping of a nonrenewable resource such as oil.

Furthermore this price should be attractive, keeping in mind the huge high-risk investments oil companies have to make in a sector that is as chancy as oil exploration. Price will be a determining factor in the way the oil market moves in the near future, but I must emphasize that effective cooperation among all producers—be they OPEC members or not—and a constructive dialogue with consuming countries seem to us to be indispensable to ensure the harmonious evolution of the oil market, which plays a crucial role in the world economy.

[JEUNE AFRIQUE ECONOMIE] Partner diversification is on the agenda in the oil world. France is worried about the ELF-Aquitaine situation in Gabon. Are there real reasons to worry?

[Bongo] If you worry about the ELF-Aquitaine situation in Gabon because of partner diversification, then you don't know the realities of the oil world. Indeed, diversification of oil partners is not a new practice in Gabon and in no way does it pose a genuine threat to French oil companies.

As you know, oil exploration is an activity fraught with very high financial risks; because of this, oil companies with a license look, on their own, for associates to share these risks. This is what ELF has always done with the vast mining holdings it has on land or at sea in Gabon. In case of a discovery, it is normal for production to be shared between ELF and its associates. The Rabi-Kounga discovery is a case in point: This license had been granted by the government to ELF, which chose Shell-Gabon as an operator and associate.

The bids for offers that we instituted some time ago for the granting of licenses in Gabon give companies already operating in Gabon every opportunity, these opportunities, furthermore, being enhanced by the fact that the companies know the terrain as compared to the new bidders. So we see no reason for ELF-Aquitaine to worry in this regard, especially since many non-French companies value an association with ELF, in view of that company's special assets in the field.

In any event, your question surprises me, since the door to my office is always open to businessmen. If this worry existed, the ELF-Aquitaine group would have spoken to me, since just recently I had a visit from Mr Lefloch, the new president and chief executive officer, and from the president of ELF-Gabon, my friend Andre Tarallo, and Marc Cosse, the director general. The conversation I had with them revealed no special worry but rather satisfaction with Gabon's oil future. Neither my minister of

hydrocarbons nor the director general of hydrocarbons reported any uneasiness on the part of the oil company men to me.

[JEUNE AFRIQUE ECONOMIE] Exploiting natural resources to the limit is still the basis for the wealth of nations. In the hydrocarbons sector, do you intend to shake things up and, following other Third World countries, acquire an interest in Western distribution networks or refineries?

[Bongo] The real problem is how to make the optimal use of our natural resources. In the case of oil, we should note that we're talking about a nonrenewable resource and that, at the moment, Gabon does not have the huge reserves and production capacities of certain countries which, for various reasons, acquire an interest in distribution networks or refineries in consuming countries. Gabon is not yet equipped to pursue such a policy, and our objective is to optimize what we can get out of our Port Gentil refinery and from that part of our tax system that regulates the production and export of crude oil.

[JEUNE AFRIQUE ECONOMIE] It was once a source of wealth, but now wood is still a hope for Gabon. Mr President, what policy do you intend to implement to get this activity going again?

[Bongo] Besides the Gabon Forestry Company (CFG) and a few other small firms turning out lumber and plywood, most wood produced is sold as undressed timber. Now the undressed timber market is constantly shrinking and this condition may only worsen with the ecology movement. At the same time, the lumber market is expanding. So this new trend confirms our decision here in Gabon to promote more processing of our wood. [passage omitted]

* ELF, Shell Successful Oil Prospecting

90EF0008B Paris JEUNE AFRIQUE ECONOMIE
in French Aug 89 pp 110-114

[Article by Celia Sedo: "Two or Three Things I Know About ELF"]

[Excerpts] Having witnessed the first discoveries, Gabon experienced the worst of times. Today, Africa's sixth largest oil-producing country is walking a tightrope: The potential wealth of its new deposits offers the promise of a revival, but the rate at which older oil fields are being exhausted is acting as a brake on the country's progress and the world market could still cause it to totter. And this is something ELF-Gabon, its fairy godmother, cannot always protect against, even if the fates of both seem sealed forever. [passage omitted]

Let us look at the way things currently stand. The government finally got rid of the Gabon National Petroleum Company (PETROGAB) in 1988. Its failure had been obvious. But the number of operators had risen from seven in 1986 to 12 in 1989. It would even appear that the "third round" of the granting of licenses is

leading to a certain amount of unrest. How can this craze be explained? Doubtless the late estimate on the deposits at Rabi (Shell) and the Grand Anguille Dauphin (ELF), which had been discovered in 1986, were sufficient to restore optimism to oil men and to return to Gabon its image as a "fair maiden to be courted."

Strangely enough, Gabon still owes its recent, juicy discoveries to the old hands. Since these discoveries were made, ELF has drilled 12 more exploratory wells, Shell six; combined, most of the other companies have drilled seven wells and have found just one. Nothing can replace a knowledge of the terrain or "the quality of the research teams of the companies that have been here for many years," as Marc Cosee, the director general of ELF-Gabon, put it.

The reshuffling of the cards believed to be in progress, then, is fairly relative. When the first company says it will "put the quality of the patrimony ahead of the amount of area it is granted," it does so because it knows whereof it speaks. We would be willing to bet that this company will find the way to pay the price to get the best licenses as long as its activities remain profitable. But in the future, Gabon should no longer seem like anybody's "game preserve."

From all these dramatic twists and turns, Gabon emerges strongly, with a sedimentary basin of 92,000 square kilometers, 40,000 of which are on land, and it has been extensively studied by many companies; onshore research is an extra feather in its cap. But, most importantly, in 1989, the country has every chance of attaining the highest peak in its production history and of continuing this climb in coming years. This is why the country is negotiating with OPEC to get its current quota of 166,000 barrels per day (8.3 million tons per year) ultimately increased to 15 million tons of petroleum annually. Shell's move to the lead will be more difficult to negotiate with its long-standing partner; when the figures are gathered on actual oil production, ELF will be overtaken as early as 1989. In fact, the Dutch company is the operator of the Rabi-Kounga deposit and controls 42.5 percent of production; ELF has only 29.5 percent. So Shell has a fair wind propelling it, whereas ELF-Gabon has to absorb a 36.5 billion CFA franc deficit from fiscal year 1988.

Rwanda

* Absenteeism on Communal Work Days Noted

90EF0014 Kigali LA RELEVÉ in French
1-7 Sep 89 p 2

[Editorial by Augustin Twagirayezu: "The Umuganda of 26 August Did Not Draw Crowds"; first paragraph is LA RELEVÉ introduction]

[Text] While Kigalians turned out in large numbers for the communal development work of 27 May and of 24 June in the residential quarters, the work of 26 August had a high rate of absenteeism. This Umuganda [Saturday morning collective volunteer work for the community] is "special," "unprecedented," "worthy of interest," etc. It is impossible to make an exhaustive list of the various attributes the different participants used to praise the community development work carried out on 27 May 1989. But interest strangely declined as soon as the Minister of Interior and of Communal Development, who is its initiator, renewed the experience. Result: The Umuganda of 26 June, organized at the cell level, which was divided into a few zones (three to five) for greater efficiency for the occasion, had relatively weak participation.

Several causes may explain this phenomenon. First of all, taking into account the great mobility, which is a privilege of city life, people did not consider themselves solidly established in their residence cells. As a result, they have little interest in life in these cells. They have quite different concerns: seeking less expensive housing, better paid employment, etc. The neighborhood matters little.

This mobility brings with it another equally important consequence: anonymity. In fact, cell leaders cannot identify all the persons domiciled in the politico-administrative body under their authority. Since certain people refuse to obey when not led by a stick, they will not make the trouble to move. It remains to be seen whether it is legal to use coercive measures regarding absentees, since Umuganda by its political philosophy is, above all, a voluntary contribution for improving the country.

On the other hand, certain members of cell committees certainly do not feel that they have enough authority to supervise some of their citizens, being overwhelmed by their political, financial, or intellectual influence. Since the cell in urban areas thus might be said to be a heterogeneous body, its members do not necessarily have the same concerns. Hence, like it or not, members cannot have the same outlook and communicate. The glaring proof of this is in the work groups, which are made up not according to contiguity of lodgings, for example, but according to previous affinities. And the final "kungurana ibetekerezo" (exchange of ideas) is a mere formality, with matters returning to the status quo, after the activity.

However, these few defects have not prevented participants from achieving concrete results, above all in the area of cleaning up our capital. Certain members have repaired roads, [dug] trenches for telephone cables, and built bridges. And they were very proud of it. As much during, as after, the Umuganda. The corner shopkeeper will certainly not forget us.

Ethiopia

* EPLF Leader on Soviet Prisoners, Talks

34040002 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic
9 Aug 89 p 11

[Interview with EPLF Secretary General Asias Afewerke by Zaki Musa: "EPLF Secretary General Asias Afewerke to AL-MAJALLAH: Moscow and Washington Are for Resolving Eritrean Issue Peacefully"; date and place not given]

[Text] What are the latest developments in the Eritrean issue, especially in the wake of the abortive coup attempt in Ethiopia? What are this attempt's ramifications to your situation?

[Afewerke] The coup attempt in Ethiopia reflects the general resentment against the war, the regime, and the economic situation that is worsening day after day. This resentment reached the officers' ranks, and our information indicates that more than 200 officers have been killed or imprisoned and that arrests continue. There are those who say that Ethiopia's prime minister is under arrest.

[AL-MAJALLAH] Why did the coup attempt fail?

[Afewerke] Because of small mistakes made by its leaders, in addition to negligence on the part of the security unit which comprises 4,000 men. It also failed because of the large number of organizers who tried to involve all the units as of the first day. This enabled the officers loyal to President Mengistu Haile-Mariam to organize their ranks and attack the coup movement. Moreover, the timing itself was inappropriate.

[AL-MAJALLAH] Did you contribute to the coup?

[Afewerke] We had a secondary role. Our adherence to the cease-fire was intended to help create a proper climate which would enable the coup leaders to settle the crisis peacefully, especially since the Ethiopian officers had been worried that that our movement would exploit the situation after any coup attempt. Our declaration of a cease-fire encouraged some Ethiopian officers stationed in the Eritrean region to continue their resistance to the pro-Mariam units.

[AL-MAJALLAH] As Eritrean factions, what is the extent of your practical control on the ground and where is the Ethiopian presence concentrated?

[Afewerke] The EPLF controls 85 percent of the territories whereas the Ethiopian army is basically present in three cities, including Asmara, the capital, Musawwa, Keren, and Asab Port. These are besieged central areas covering no more than 10-15 percent of all of Eritrea.

[AL-MAJALLAH] More than one contact has been held recently to resolve the Eritrean crisis. What are the latest developments in this regard?

[Afewerke] In the wake of the recent coup attempt, the Ethiopian regime declared, through its parliament, its readiness to negotiate with us without preconditions, and in the presence of a third party as an observer. While we welcome this step, we have an experience that is not encouraging. In mid-1988, the Sudanese Government made efforts to end the crisis. We, on our part, presented a vision of the solution but it was rejected. At the end of 1988, Yemeni President Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih intervened in an attempt to get negotiations started. But his endeavor failed because of the intransigence of Mariam's regime. The Ethiopian regime's proclamation of its acceptance to negotiate without preconditions and in the presence of a third party meets one of the fundamental demands we have been striving to accomplish since 1985.

[AL-MAJALLAH] What steps have been taken so far to regulate this negotiation process and who is the third party likely to play the role of observer in the negotiations?

[Afewerke] Regarding the third party, we welcome any party prepared to secure the right atmosphere for a just solution to the Eritrean issue. Sudan has played a role in this regard, and so has the Yemen Arab Republic. All the Arab countries are eager to contribute at this level. In the wake of the major operation we staged in March 1988, the United States has recently shown that it is prepared to support any negotiations while the Soviet Union has declared that it will be impossible to resolve the issue militarily. In Europe, more than one country, such as Sweden, Italy, France, and Norway, have expressed their willingness to contribute to achieving a solution.

[AL-MAJALLAH] How are you managing the liberated territories?

[Afewerke] We follow the democratic formula by forming people's councils at all levels and by holding free elections in which citizens of the liberated areas participate to facilitate the creation of political institutions which manage their daily economic, educational, health, and other affairs.

[AL-MAJALLAH] Where have you succeeded and where have you failed in this management?

[Afewerke] Any final evaluation of our experiment would be unfair because we are still in a state of war which dictates a certain method of action. There are numerous issues which we have not been able to overcome and which are dictated by the war. It is certain that stable security will develop the political system's action. We are always prepared to develop ourselves and to learn from the mistakes.

[AL-MAJALLAH] There are other factions that operate next to you. How do you coordinate and cooperate with them?

[Afewerke] The other factions are not present on the Eritrean ground. Some journalists who were taken on an

organized tour of some refugee camps in Sudan have helped spread this misunderstanding on the presence of other factions. These factions have never left the Sudanese territories and the Eritrean refugee camps existing there. The basis of the presence of such organizations should be participation in the military action against the Ethiopian forces and in providing the Eritrean people with services, not the issuing of statements and not travel from capital to capital.

[AL-MAJALLAH] What is the nature of the relationship binding you to the Arab sphere?

[Afeworke] We are present in the center of the Arab world and we consider ourselves a part of the region's strategy. Moreover, we are tied to the Arab world, regardless of the divergent political tendencies.

[AL-MAJALLAH] Are there open channels between you and the United States or between you and the Soviet Union?

[Afeworke] We have channels with the United States. I visited Washington last month and met there with a number of administration and congressional officials. For its part, the Soviet Union is trying to contribute to developing a solution to the Eritrean issue, and it has informed us of this wish.

[AL-MAJALLAH] Were the channels opened with the Soviet Union on your initiative or on a Soviet initiative?

[Afeworke] On both sides' initiative.

[AL-MAJALLAH] It is well-known that you have Soviet prisoners. What point have the contacts in this regard reached?

[Afeworke] We captured three Soviet officers in March 1988. For us, their case cannot be the subject of discussion until basic steps are taken. The Soviet Union has been participating in the war against us since 1974, and Soviet officers and experts play a prominent role in this war.

* Eritrean Leaders on Marxism, Western Support

34040005 Cairo *AL-NUR in Arabic*
13 Sep 89 p 8

[Interview With Eritrean Revolution Leaders Ahmed Nasser and Mohamed Said Naud by 'Abdullah Khalil: "Illegitimate Deal Between Eritrean Communists and Mengistu's Regime"; date and place not given.]

[Excerpts] Eritrea started Islamic, and then the communists stole it away. [passage omitted]

Now, what has happened? We leave the answer to Ahmed Mohamed Nasser, Executive Committee member and chairman of the Executive Bureau of the People's Liberation Forces, who has been interviewed at length by Qatar's Islamic *AL-UMMAH* magazine. We have quoted the following excerpts from the interview:

The Eritrean crisis is due, in part, to the fact that some of its leaders had wagered on the downfall of Haile Selassie and the rise of leftist elements, believing that an intellectual dialogue based on Marxist theory could provide a solution to the issue. This tendency grew stronger with the growth of the Marxist inclination in Ethiopia.

Several indirect, and then direct, meetings were held between leaders of the revolutionary council, the People's Front, and the regime's cadres in Ethiopia. The revolutionary council leadership, which was the Communist Labor Party leadership, has held the belief, according to a member of the party's executive committee, that the regime existing in Ethiopia is a progressive regime that has made numerous accomplishments for its people. We are eager to help it so that its progressive policies may not be impeded. [passage omitted]

When asked: Considering that the Soviet Union supports Ethiopia, then why doesn't the West support the Eritrean revolution? Ahmed Nasser answered: Western governments believe that the Ethiopian military government is not a progressive "communist" government but an extension of the Amharic regime and of the imperial domination in Haile Selassie's era, that there is no difference between this government and Selassie's regime, and that Ethiopia, a country where 13 of its 14 provinces suffer real starvation, will one day abandon the Soviet Union which sells weapons, not food. This is why the EEC countries, which suspended their aid to Bokassa's Central Africa and Idi Amin's Uganda in 1976 on the pretext of dictatorship and terrorism, make sure that their aid continues to flow to Marxist Ethiopia without even denouncing the country's tendencies or oppressive practices. Added to this is the fact that the West believes that Ethiopia is Christian, and that it will return to the church's fold someday. Therefore, there is no cause to divide it. Rather, it must be preserved as it is. [passage omitted]

Strategic Obstacles

If we leave Eritrean Leader Ahmed Nasser and turn to Mohamed Said Naud, another Eritrean revolution leader, he will put the finger on the main obstacles obstructing a solution to the Eritrean issue. Naud is chairman of the Executive Committee of the Eritrean Liberation Front—the People's Liberation Forces, and a prominent element who contributed to establishing the Eritrean liberation movement and in gaining support for it in the Arab area. This support, whether material or political, is seasonal in nature, considering that the Eritrean revolution has not gained absolute strategic support from the Arab area. What our Arab brothers offer is a meager effort that is incompatible with the dimensions of the issue. The African position toward us is well known, namely to preserve the international borders inherited from the era of European colonialism. This provision is 100 percent in our favor but is translated against our interests.

As for the positions of the eastern and western camps, Said Naud explains it to us in simple and brief words, saying: The position of neither the western nor the eastern camp is in our interest. The West is against us and it is the party that led us to all these tragedies. The Ethiopian federal system was approved not by the United Nations but by the United States. Even though the East did not fight us during Haile Selassie's era, it did not support us in that era. Under Mengistu's administration, the East has been fighting us.

Eritrean Leader Naud added: We frequently hear from our Arab brothers that Eritrea is Arab and Islamic. But these words have not been translated strategically. [passage omitted]

Tanzania

* Zanzibar Signs Cooperation Pact With Libya

34000068c Dar es Salaam DAILY NEWS in English
22 Sep 89 p 1

[Article by Abdallah Yakuti, Zanzibar]

[Text] Libya will supply Zanzibar with essential drugs, text books and laboratory equipment for secondary schools under a co-operation agreement signed in Tripoli on Wednesday. The socialist republic will also build two rural roads here.

According to a news dispatch from Tripoli, the Zanzibar delegation headed by Chief Minister Omar Ali Juma and their Libyan counterpart headed by Colonel Muammar Gaddafi, also agreed on expanded trade and technical and cultural co-operation.

Finance Minister Jaafar Mfaume Ali signed the agreement on behalf of the Zanzibar Government and Director General in the Libyan Foreign Ministry (International Co-operation), Salim Mohammed Shwedi for his country.

The cost of the roads linking Kidimni and Kitope in Zanzibar North Region and Bahanasa and Daya Road in Pemba island totalling 45 kilometres will be known after a Libyan technical team arrives here next month.

The two African nations further agreed to initiate in Zanzibar joint economic projects in agriculture, fisheries and tourism—sectors which command top priority in the Isles' economic recovery efforts.

The Libyan technical team will conduct feasibility studies to determine economic viability and how the projects could be developed.

Dr. Omar and his delegation were last night expected to leave Libya for Britain and Italy tours.

* FRG's DM57 Million Grant for Rail, Roads

34000068a Dar es Salaam DAILY NEWS in English
20 Sep 89 p 3

[Text] The Federal Republic of Germany (FRG) has granted Tanzania 57 million Deutsche marks (4.161m/-) for rehabilitation of the Central Railway Line, the road transport sector and the installation of a second transmission line from Kidatu to Morogoro.

The agreement to this effect was signed in Dar es Salaam yesterday by Acting Principal Secretary in the Treasury A.T. Makenya and FRG Ambassador to Tanzania Christel Steffler.

A press release issued by the FRG Embassy said the grant was part of 60 million Deutsche marks (4.240m/-) set aside by the FRG for financial co-operation and 35 million Deutsche marks (2.590m/-) for technical co-operation with Tanzania this year.

The press release said with this assistance, the FRG continued to side with Tanzania's efforts for a recovery of her economy and increased self-reliance of the country.

Ever since 1979, when the FRG cancelled all official debts incurred by Tanzania, its assistance has been given exclusively in the form of non-repayable grants.

* Difficulties in Mineral Sector Exports Detailed

34000068b Dar es Salaam DAILY NEWS in English
21 Sep 89 p 1

[Text] Tanzania is rich in numerous minerals such as gold, diamonds, tin, mica, gemstones, salt, kaolin, gypsum, lime, to name a few.

Aware of the importance of the mineral sector in the development of the national economy, the Government has since independence embarked on a systematic programme covering the entire country, to identify deposits which could be exploited for economic and social betterment of the people.

Continued support to organised mining ventures like the Williamson Diamonds Limited in Shinyanga, Buckreef Gold Mining Company in Geita and the Kaolin Mines Company in Kisarawe demonstrate Government's commitment to strengthen the sector.

However, despite these efforts, the mineral sector is still facing many problems which have led to production slump. They include lack of skilled manpower, especially in small-scale production undertaken by individual or group of miners; obsolete technology and old equipment; inadequate capital for opening new reserves and managing existing ones; and erratic supply of vital spare parts for mining equipment.

Further, poor control of small scale diggers and marketing arrangements for minerals have also led to the weakening of the sector.

This is worsened by smugglers, who ferry out the minerals through so-called panya routes, denying Tanzania the much-needed foreign exchange earnings.

Alarmed by illegal activities in the sector, the Government decided in May, last year, to issue licences to a number of mineral dealers, including individuals and cooperative societies, so that they can participate more responsibly in the purchase and sale of minerals.

Hitherto, the licences were confined to the State Mining Corporation (STAMICO) and its subsidiary companies.

The aim was to ensure that dealings in minerals by prospectors followed legal channels to contain smuggling.

It is in this light that we hope the newly-formed Tanzania Mineral Dealers Association (TAMIDA), working with the relevant bodies, will monitor carefully the operations of licensed dealers and ensure that they use their licences for the intended objectives.

TAMIDA must impart a sense of organised mineral dealings to check smuggling through our borders and improve the contribution of the sector to the national economy.

Apart from complementing Government efforts in unmasking illegal mineral dealers, TAMIDA must also find ways and means to help in alleviating the problems facing the dealers, to create confidence in foreign investors who are welcome in joint mining ventures to revamp the sector.

Malawi

* FRG To Provide 97 Million DM for Projects

34000055c Blantyre DAILY TIMES in English
30 Aug 89 p 1

[Text] Malawi and the Federal Republic of Germany yesterday signed four financial cooperation agreements under which this country will receive K143 million (DM 97 million).

The signing ceremony took place at the Ministry of Finance headquarters in Lilongwe. The Minister of Finance, Hon. Louis Chimango and the West German Ambassador to Malawi, Dr. Wilfried Rupprecht, signed on behalf of the two governments.

The grant will be used for the following projects: K29.5 million for the structural adjustments programme; K10 million for water supply projects at Balaka, Tsangano and Thekerani; K46.3 million for the Dwangwa-Nkhata Bay road project and K11.3 million for commodity aid.

Speaking after signing the grant, Hon. Chimango said that the assistance underlines the Germans' deep sympathy and understanding of Malawi's development needs.

"I am aware that this financial co-operation is a manifestation of the respect, confidence and trust that the people of the Federal Republic of Germany have in the sound management of the economy of Malawi under the wise leadership of the Life President," Hon. Chimango said.

In his remarks, Ambassador Rupprecht said economic co-operation between the two countries has a long-lasting and excellent record based on friendship and partnership.

According to the Minister of Finance the K29.5 million will enable Malawi to meet current import costs in the key sectors of the economy.

The commodity aid package will be used to purchase agricultural inputs, such as chemicals and fertilizers. It will also be used to purchase radio equipment to strengthen the capacity of the Malawi Broadcasting Corporation (MBC) and for the purchase of medical supplies from West Germany, Hon. Chimango said.

Mozambique

* Rural Extension Program To Benefit 20,000

90EF0011a Maputo NOTICIAS in Portuguese
12 Sep 89 p 8

[Text] Nearly 20,000 peasants from the family and cooperative sectors will benefit from technical assistance provided by over 90 extension workers as part of an agricultural rehabilitation project initiated throughout

the country last year, as our newspaper learned from sources at the Ministry of Agriculture in Maputo associated with the program.

Elias Matlombe, who is also chief of that ministry's Rural Extension Program, said that the project, scheduled to last 4 years, will include over 30,000 peasants, the majority from the family sector, who will be assisted by 600 extension workers to be trained gradually.

This project will cover at least 37 of the 40 districts considered a priority. The rehabilitation of agriculture, livestock, and forestry is currently under way in the southern part of the country, specifically, in the districts of Boane, Xai-Xai, and Inhambane, in Maputo, Gaza, and Inhambane Provinces, respectively.

According to Elias Matlombe, the next phase, due to begin this month, will cover the districts of Marracuene, Rapale, Montepuez, Gondola, and Homoine, in Maputo, Nampula, Cabo Delgado, Manica, and Inhambane Provinces, respectively.

According to our interviewee, the second phase of this project will receive backing from other agencies, such as the National Agronomic Research Institute (INIA) and the Agrarian, Livestock, Forestry, and Bee-Keeping Station, as well as the sector that he heads.

The Ministry of Agriculture informant claimed that the agricultural rehabilitation program has financing from the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) which made nearly \$21 million available for this purpose. It is intended basically to provide the peasant with agricultural techniques and to instill in him the habit of working in a collective system, yet without neglecting other sectors.

The informant from the Agriculture Ministry remarked: "Attacks on villages committed by armed bandits and natural disasters are, among others, some of the problems that have been hampering the proper implementation of this program."

When asked to comment on the training of extension workers to execute this project, Elias Matlombe noted that a training course would start soon in the Marracuene district of Maputo Province, and at another location yet to be determined in Nampula.

He added that courses of this type would also be given in the districts of Sussundenga, in Manica; Mueda, in Cabo Delgado; Monapo, in Nampula Province; Jangamo, in Inhambane; Bilene, in Macia; and Chibuto, in Gaza, among other localities.

The source of the information observed that those participating in the extension workers' training courses receive instruction on communication, methodology, and the rural extension training and planning system, among other subjects.

*** 2,000 Refugees Repatriated From RSA**

90EF0011b Maputo NOTICIAS in Portuguese
9 Sep 89 p 8

[Text] Nearly 2,000 Mozambican citizens who had taken refuge in the Republic of South Africa [RSA] because of the war of destabilization waged by the armed bandits, especially in Maputo and Gaza Provinces, have been repatriated by that country's authorities since last January, through the Ressano Garcia border post, as our local reporter learned.

In fact, as Viquingue Francisco, head of the reception center for those people at the Ressano Garcia administrative post in Moamba district, explained, since the beginning of this year 1,858 citizens have been repatriated, a number that has been increasing gradually over the past few days.

By way of example our source noted that, every day, the South African authorities are repatriating an average of 100-300 Mozambican citizens, including men, women, and children, who had fled primarily from the districts bordering that country.

This fact was confirmed last Tuesday by our reporter in the locality, where there were over 200 people who had just been repatriated by South Africa. Most of these repatriates had fled the previous week from the Massingir and Magude districts, where some attacks by armed bandits took place.

Almina Zitha, aged 35, who escaped from Massingir with her six children aged between 1 month and 15 years, told our reporter that she had left "there because of the constant attacks by armed bandits." She added that before her escape to South Africa, where her husband is located, the bandits had attacked and destroyed her residence on 29 August, at the same time killing two of her children, aged 7 and 18, respectively.

Almina Zitha remarked: "When the bandits arrived last Tuesday night, we were asleep. Even so, I managed to escape with these children, and the two left behind were killed." It was after this criminal act that Almina Zitha, with the other village residents, decided to flee in search of security.

When asked to comment on her thoughts after having been repatriated by the South African authorities, the subject of our interview expressed fear about returning to her place of origin, claiming: "If possible, I would like to live in another region. I wouldn't want to return to Massingir again, because of the armed bandits' systematic attacks."

This desire was shared by the other repatriates, who described the tragedy that they had experienced, both in their places of origin and in South Africa, to which they had fled in search of better security conditions.

Luciano Wuly Mucanse, aged 59, who, like the other repatriates, had fled from his place of origin because of

the war of destabilization waged by the armed bandits, complained: "Now I don't know what to do. I escaped from Magude, where the armed bandits burned all my houses and stole all my possessions, including herds of cattle. I escaped to South Africa in search of better security conditions. There, I was arrested and put in jail, and after that I was brought here to the border."

That old man related that, before fleeing to South Africa last August, he had been in Maputo, where he was unable to obtain employment or a residence so as to better organize his life.

Assistance to the Repatriates

Meanwhile, in order to ease the suffering of those people the Mozambique Red Cross, in cooperation with the United Nations Refugee Program, has been providing the necessary assistance, particularly by supplying food and clothing.

Nevertheless, this aid has proven insufficient because, as Viquingue Francisco asserted, sometimes the repatriates arrive and there is nothing to eat at the center.

The head of the Mozambican repatriates' reception center in Ressano Garcia commented: "When this happens, we do emergency work evacuating the people to the Xipamanine lodging center in the city of Maputo, where they can at least receive minor assistance from the Mozambique Red Cross."

This situation has been especially disturbing to the Ressano Garcia political and administrative agencies which, in order to evacuate the repatriated people to the city of Maputo, are receiving aid from the South Mozambique Railroads. For this purpose, the latter has made two coaches available, as its administrator, Domingos Durbeque, indicated.

Discussing the rate of reception of the repatriates, that official noted that it is occurring almost every day, except for Saturdays and Sundays, a situation that has existed since the beginning of this year.

He concluded by saying: "There is no particular number of persons repatriated daily. The South Africans need only have their jails overcrowded to evacuate people. Then they repatriate as many as 125, 130, or even 300 people per day."

It should be mentioned that the reception center for repatriated people in the settlement of Ressano Garcia consists of about 20 field tents, a number that has proven meager for sheltering the hundreds of people brought there daily, as our on site reporter attested.

*** Famine in Marromeu District Affects 40,000**

90EF0011c Maputo NOTICIAS in Portuguese
9 Sep 89 p 3

[Text] Over 40,000 persons in Sofala Province's Marromeu district are undergoing the agony of famine

because 90 percent of the crops from the first agricultural campaign have been destroyed as a result of the torrential rain and flooding of the Zambezi River that occurred during the first quarter of this year. This is the second consecutive year in which a natural disaster has negated the peasants' efforts, because last year tropical depression "Filao" also left deepseated effects on that region.

Information obtained by our Beira agency's collaborator from Paulino Jocene Nota, secretary of the party's committee in that district for the production and commercial area, reveals that the Zambezi River flooding and the constant rainfall caused 4,000 hectares of various crops, primarily grains (corn, millet, barley, and rice), to be inundated.

Also according to the same source, last year the floods caused by tropical depression "Filao" destroyed nearly 3,000 hectares. This forced the area's population to resort to donations, while waiting for the production from the second season and other alternative crops. The same disaster left 5,000 families without shelter.

Discussing the results of this year's excessive flooding and rainfall, that official expressed regret at the critical condition of the Marromeu population; adding that, despite the efforts undertaken by residents to mitigate the effects of those calamities, the alternative crops have not yet produced satisfactory results.

Nevertheless, he praised the peasants' determination to find local solutions for combating the specter of famine, expressing optimism for the next harvests if such disasters do not recur.

In the meantime, according to that district official, the 40,000 persons (almost 90 percent of the population) will have to put up with the insufficient donations given to them; a situation that is already causing states of malnutrition among those stricken by this misfortune.

Land Shortage Exacerbates Problem

The constant influx of displaced persons to the vicinity of the Marromeu district's headquarters-town is causing serious problems for the local authorities, who cannot find land to distribute among so many people seeking land to engage in farming.

At the present time the town of Marromeu is housing peasants who have fled from the localities of Salone, Maviga, and Kuama, in addition to those displaced from various parts of Zambezia Province (mainly from Luabo).

In an act aimed at making total use of the available space, Sena Sugar Estates (SSE), which owns 15,000 hectares for sugar cane production, is turning over to the population land unsuited for this crop, in an initiative that is minimizing the great demand for land.

This action was facilitated by the paralyzed status of that agricultural-livestock-industrial complex since 1980, after the sabotage of which it was a victim. In fact, since

that time the company has distributed the land not included in the nursery plan for conserving the cane that will be required after the conclusion of the rehabilitation work scheduled at the sugar mill.

*** Accord Signed With Visiting Chinese Official**

*90EF0011d Maputo NOTICIAS in Portuguese
12 Aug 89 p 1*

[Text] Yesterday in Maputo Vice Minister of Industry and Energy Rosario Fernandes and Vice Minister of Foreign Economic Relations and Trade Lu Xuejian signed the protocol for the construction of the People's Assembly Palace, upon the conclusion of the talks between the two nations that began on Wednesday, devoted to bilateral cooperation.

Although the date for the start of construction on that project has not yet been determined, it is known that the cost of building the palace has been estimated at 50 million yuan, or approximately \$13.5 million.

Speaking on this occasion, Rosario Fernandes declared that the talks that took place dealt with the accords signed last year between the two countries during President Joaquim Chissano's visit to the People's Republic of China.

"Those accords involve contracts already signed and some that are in an advanced phase for signing, of interest to both sides."

The vice minister of industry and energy discussed China's participation in agriculture, specifically, its assistance to the National Directorate of Agrarian Economy and the Umbeluzi Agrarian Station. He noted that, in the future, that country might become involved in the Matama, Manhica, and Moamba projects, if the necessary security conditions are established.

He also stressed that the Chinese Government is cooperating in the industrial area, through its backing for the Ritmo Shoe Factory, Soveste, Texmoque, and the Glazed Articles Factory in Beira, with other interests in this area for both sides.

He cited other sectors in which there is participation by that Asian country, such as construction, water, health, and transportation. In the latter area he emphasized the construction of a joint vessel with the capacity to transport 300 passengers and an equal number of tons of various types of cargo, intended to operate along the Mozambican coast.

It should be noted that the ship's construction resulted from the credit line granted to our country by the People's Republic of China to finance projects in the fields of transportation and light industry.

Vice Minister of Foreign Economic Relations Lu Xuejian, in turn, remarked that, in addition to analyzing bilateral cooperation, the talks served to put other areas into perspective.

He expressed his conviction that the groundwork has been laid for the development of mutual economic relations.

Yesterday the president of the People's Assembly, Marcelino dos Santos, also received Lu Xuejian and his delegation in an audience, during which they exchanged views on matters of concern to both countries.

The Chinese vice minister of foreign economic relations and trade leaves today to return to his country, at the conclusion of a 4-day working visit to Mozambique.

*** Close to 2,000 Benefit From Amnesty Law**

90EF0011e Maputo NOTICIAS in Portuguese
4 Sep 89 p 3

[Text] A total of 1,888 citizens who were to serve various sentences in the country's prison centers have already had their freedom restored, benefiting from the Amnesty and Pardon Law passed last month by the People's Assembly, as NOTICIAS learned from a source in the justice minister's office.

According to the same source, the beneficiaries also include 28 persons accused of crimes against the security of the people and the people's state, as well as foreigners who had been convicted by the defunct Revolutionary Military Court.

It should be noted that Law No 3/89, passed last August by the People's Assembly, includes amnesty for minor and common crimes, guaranteeing pardon for those who were convicted or who had trials pending over 5 years ago, under the aegis of the Law on Crimes Against State Security.

This is the second time that a pardon has included crimes punishable on the basis of Law No 2/79 on Crimes Against the Security of the People and the People's State, promulgated in 1979 for conviction in cases of espionage, treason, sabotage, armed rebellion or similar crimes.

The inclusion of crimes against state security is like an extension of the Amnesty Law issued in 1987, aimed essentially at the armed bandits who gave up crime and voluntarily surrendered to the Mozambican authorities, in the context of the party and state's efforts intended to establish peace in the country.

The law now passed by the People's Assembly stipulates pardon "from the entire sentence yet to be served by those convicted" of crimes against state security, specifying as conditions for this purpose good behavior and no commission of crime for a 5-year period.

Most of the prisoners who have benefited from a release come from the group convicted of common crimes serving prison terms of up to 1 year, while those serving 2 years are guaranteed pardon. Those sentenced to longer terms benefit from a reduction of half their

sentences plus 1 year, with the exception of those convicted of crimes involving association with criminals and armed assault.

*** Zambezia Minerals Attract Foreign Companies**

90EF0011f Maputo NOTICIAS in Portuguese
5 Sep 89 p 3

[Text] Now that an apparent improvement in the war atmosphere has occurred, American, South African, and Soviet investors are resuming the race to invest before the year's end in the rehabilitation of the mines containing tantalite and other minerals in the Mozambican central province of Zambezia. During the first half of August investors from those countries were in that province, one of Mozambique's richest in mineral resources.

Besides the minister of mineral resources, John Kachamila, the delegation included the vice president of the U.S. company, Edlow Resources, Jack Edlow, South African geologists from Gencor, the second largest mining company in South Africa, and the minister counselor of the Soviet Embassy in Maputo, Vassil Chuydko.

Most of the 17 districts comprising Zambezia Province showed a relative improvement in their security situation, the main factor evoking the interest of these investors.

The American and South African businessmen are particularly interested in the exploitation of the tantalite, and precious and semiprecious gem mines in Muiane, located in the Alto Molocue district, 250 km from Zambezia's provincial capital, Quelimane.

It is noteworthy that the South African participation has been arranged at the invitation of the American firm. The South African company, Gencor, has had a past marked by negligence and lack of safety in its gold mines.

The most shocking example occurred on 16 September 1986, at the Kinross gold mine nearly 100 km from Johannesburg, when 177 miners were killed in a fire caused by the use of improper materials.

The Soviets want to resume exploitation of the tantalite mines in Morrua, where they were already operating in 1983, a time when they were attacked by the armed bandits for the first time. Two Soviet specialists working there were murdered in cold blood and 24 others were kidnapped.

Of the 24 abducted, 2 were to die of disease, 2 were killed, and the rest were released after persistent negotiations with South Africa.

The present environment in Morrua and Muiane is dismal. Much of the factory equipment, the electric power supply system, and the shops, including their equipment and housing, have been reduced to rubble.

"The damage caused is enormous," remarks the national director of mines, Casimiro Francisco, who was also a member of the group visiting those mining regions. He added that, up until now, there have been no data accounting for the devastation caused by the armed bandits to the two mining units located in the northern part of Zambezia Province.

For 3 years Muiane remained under the bandits' control, and it was recovered early this year, while Morruea was recovered in June 1988. The current security conditions in these areas show an apparent improvement. The delegation of interested investors had an opportunity to witness this while hiking for nearly 3 hours through the mountains surrounding the mines.

The security conditions associated with these enterprises received the main emphasis at the meeting held by the Mozambican authorities with the interested investors in Zambezia.

Director Casimiro Francisco claimed that the process of rehabilitating the mines cannot begin until all the security requirements have been met, giving assurance that this could occur before the year's end.

Specially trained Mozambican troops will ensure the defense of the projects, which will receive logistical backup from the investors.

Depending on the situation of the mines, "we shall begin the rehabilitation process, in phases, so that we may more easily expend the foreign investment." In the past, each of the two mining units employed 800 workers, extracting the tantalum ores used by the aeronautics and space industry; while the Muiane mine also produces precious and semiprecious gems with a high commercial value.

When in operation, the mines would produce enough to exceed the total value of Mozambique's mineral exports last year, assessed at slightly over \$1 million. The minerals extracted from them accounted for a large volume of the country's exports in the past.

When the mines embark on the operational phase, Morruea could produce 62.5 tons of tantalum ore per year, a figure that might total 153 tons during a subsequent phase. The Muiane mine could produce 146 tons of the same ore annually. Their exploitation, in addition to generating foreign currency for the country, would absorb a large amount of unemployed labor in those regions, according to director Francisco.

This work will take 2 years, while the production phase will last 25 years.

As part of the American interest in Mozambican mining exploitation, the Edlow Resources firm and the government signed a contract in the city of Quelimane for an economic feasibility study of the project for the exploration of titanium in the heavy sands of the Quelimane and

Micaune regions. Based on the contract terms, the American company will invest risk capital amounting to about \$500,000.

The contract is also aimed at completing the geological studies started in 1983 by an Italian company, Aquater, to confirm the geological data already procured.

Director Casimiro claimed that the total cost of the project is unknown, but a similar one under way in the coastal district of Angoche, in the northern province of Nampula, financed by the Irish firm, Kenmare, has been budgeted at \$90 million. The project includes the construction of a mining complex and concentration and treatment plants. The geological and economic feasibility studies for this project were completed on 16 May of this year. Director Casimiro noted that the work on the opening of the mine and the plant construction would begin in early 1990.

In the coastal region of Moebase, in Zambezia Province, the American company, Edlow Resources, has already started the second phase of its heavy sand prospecting to explore for titanium ores. This work is due for completion by the end of this year, with a risk investment of \$2 million. The first phase of the investigation begun in September 1988 ended in March of this year, and the risk investment was slightly over \$1 million.

Mozambican Minister of Mineral Resources John Kachamila remarked, "The results of the investigations have been quite encouraging thus far."

The third phase of the project, including the detailed investigation and economic feasibility study, will continue as soon as the results of the phase now under way are known. If the results prove optimal, the exploitation of titanium ores used in the chemical and electrochemical industries, and for other applications, will begin within 3 years.

The Mozambican work force involved in the Moebase research project totals 60 and the foreign personnel, 4. Security is guaranteed by Mozambican troops specially trained for this purpose, who receive logistical backup from the American firm, Edlow Resources, the financier of the research project.

A university geology student who had an internship in Moebase at the time commented: "The dissipating atmosphere of war in that region is creating hope in the country, which wants to benefit from its immense subsoil resources."

*** New Maputo Province Leaders Announced**

90EF0011g Maputo NOTICIAS in Portuguese
5 Sep 89 p 3

[Text] New leadership cadres for Maputo Province, specifically, six provincial directors, two district administrators, and one local governor's office chief, assumed their positions last Friday at a ceremony held in the town of Matola, with Governor Raimundo Bila officiating.

The inauguration ceremony for those leaders is part of the current process to reorganize the various directors of economic and social activity in Maputo Province, aimed at enabling it to implement the instructions emanating from the recently held Fifth Congress of the Frelimo [Mozambique Liberation Front] Party.

Thus, Carlos Matsinhe, Julio Muiocha, Jorge Marcelino, Eduardo Nhamire, Samuel Bie, and Pedro Muianga were installed in the respective positions of provincial directors of commerce, planning commission, finance, education and culture, support and control, and construction and water. Zefanias Mathe and Jose Sendela assumed the posts of administrator of the Marracuene and Matutuine districts, respectively; Agostinho Faquir was installed as the provincial governor's office chief. Some of the newly installed leaders have already been discharging their duties internally.

On this occasion Governor Raimundo Bila remarked that one of the priority actions to be taken by those leaders is the mobilization and organization of the populace. "Only in this way shall we be able to keep the population actively engaged in production, so that we can be relieved of the emergency situation."

That governor added that when the population is effectively organized it will not encounter any problems in defending our conquests. He cited as an example the guarantee of security for the various sectors of socioeconomic activity, and for residential premises as well.

The governor called upon the newly installed leaders to be ever aware of the fact that they will receive the people's confidence in the discharge of their duties, and hence they must succeed in finding the necessary balance to make a correct analysis of the phenomena stemming from the development process.

That official noted that, because of the war, thousands of people in Maputo Province are undergoing a difficult situation. This is why it is necessary for those taking office to know how to implement the decisions made at the party's supreme meeting, taking into account the real status of the areas of activity.

Meanwhile, Raimundo Bila announced that, during the Provincial Committee's extended session recently held in the town of Matola, it was observed that during the first 6 months of this year there was notable success in the area of agricultural production and in others, resulting from the involvement of the population as a whole in everyday work.

Members of the provincial committee and government, the wives of those taking office, and guests took part in the inauguration ceremony.

* Prime Minister Ends Visit to Zambezia

90EF0011h Maputo NOTICIAS in Portuguese
4 Sep 89 p 1

[Text] Prime Minister Mario Machungo declared that the members of the provincial government should be required constantly to monitor living conditions and activity in the districts so as to gain an overall view of the problems besetting the population, enabling them to solve these problems based on reality. Machungo spoke last Saturday in Quelimane, during a meeting with the members of the Zambezia provincial government at the conclusion of a 4-day working visit to that section of the country. The leader, who was accompanied by the minister of state administration, Oscar Monteiro, and other officials from various ministries, returned to the nation's capital on Saturday night.

The Mozambican prime minister remarked that provincial directors should not confine themselves to office work nor limit themselves to reading reports submitted to them, thereby avoiding the loss of their leadership capacity.

He commented: "This means moving from merely bureaucratic activity to practical action," adding that, in view of the war activity and the effects of natural disasters, when it is reported that there has been marketing in a certain district they must go to the site in order to determine whether or not it is surpluses that the population has been selling.

He noted that the peasants often market their products out of need for money, but after 2 or 3 months they are faced with a needy situation. Under these circumstances they engage in supplementary activity so as to be able to effectively sell their surpluses.

Mario Machungo added that only a knowledge of the real conditions can make the provincial government's meetings productive, enabling it to plan the proper steps to be taken in order to consolidate the action required to correct mistakes that have been made.

"I am convinced that this will make us less tempted to think up solutions that are not in keeping with what the reality demands and, most of all, we shall have the capacity to detect where false truths exist."

Commenting on the irregular convening of the Zambezia provincial government sessions, the prime minister stressed that their functioning is regulated by a law that must be strictly observed.

"Therefore, there is no place for the existence of factors justifying whether or not the law is to be obeyed. We don't consider it proper for only four sessions of the provincial government to have been held, a number only half of what is stipulated in the law," he observed. Mario Machungo pointed out that this organ should operate with pre-established programs, extended to the districts, the execution of which is incumbent on the members

comprising it. This will make it possible for the government to be exercised in an objective, concrete manner.

With regard to the problems brought up during the meeting in the area of transportation and communication, associated with the rehabilitation of the Quelimane-Mocuba railroad line, and the advice given on the access canal to the port of Quelimane, that leader reported that these are topics on the list of concerns of the pertinent ministry.

He noted that, among the possibilities, the vice minister of transport and communications is due to visit that part of the country this year to reschedule the activities, based on what has already been decided in the contacts with potential financiers.

As for the meagerness of the ceiling for the agricultural credit and rural development fund broached at the meeting, the prime minister said that there was little chance of its being raised to meet the requirements for redefining priorities so as to benefit the rural areas and not the urban ones, as is currently occurring.

Regarding the insufficient funds for agricultural marketing in certain districts of Zambezia Province, he announced that the vice minister of commerce is also scheduled to work in that region in order to study the proper remedies for solving the problem.

Energy Not Depleted

Despite the constant difficulties, the prime minister praised the effort expended by the provincial government, but noted that, since its energy is not depleted, it would be possible to accomplish more than is being done. He stressed: "We cannot be satisfied with the work that we are doing."

He congratulated the Armed Forces of Mozambique stationed in Zambezia on the courage and combativeness that they have demonstrated in the battle against the armed bandits, foiling their attempts to destroy the structure of the Mozambican nation.

Also on Saturday, Mario Machungo traveled to the coastal district of Pebane, located nearly 280 km northeast of the town of Quelimane, which currently houses approximately 151,000 displaced persons out of the 632,988 existing in Zambezia Province.

In that district he learned of the extreme poverty in which the displaced persons are living, through visits paid to several lodging centers located on the outskirts of the town of Pebane, and also about the dismal condition of the economic and social infrastructures after the armed bandits' destructive action.

Before leaving for Pebane the prime minister visited the Quelimane Provincial Hospital, which has been in the process of rehabilitation since the end of last year, with Italian assistance. Nearly 60 percent of the work planned for this undertaking has already been completed.

* Development Programs Aid Messica Growth

90EF0011i Maputo NOTICIAS in Portuguese
5 Sep 89 p 3

[Text] What was only a small population center at the Messica administrative post 3 years ago is now a town growing day by day amid the pine and eucalyptus forest, housing several hundred people from that part of the central province of Manica, in addition to the nearly 1,500 workers and their families.

In fact, Messica has ceased to be merely the name of a river flowing through the area or of a locality, and now also identifies a small town created thanks to the efforts undertaken by the Manica Forest Industries Enterprise [IFLOMA] to improve its workers' social conditions.

It was as part of this effort that IFLOMA, in addition to the various infrastructures already created, signed a contract with the CETA [Structures, Grading, and Asphalt Building Company] engineering projects construction firm for the building of 50 houses, the construction on which is in the completion phase.

To implement this and other projects, namely, the building of primary schools, health stations, day-care centers, commercial establishments, and occupational training centers, among others, that forest development enterprise has financing available from certain international governmental and nongovernmental organizations such as the Swedish Government and the Arab Bank for Development.

The work, which also includes the installation of residential electric power and water lines, has been carried out by the CETA and Manicantegral Construction enterprises contracted for this purpose, as well as the sector's cooperatives created on the basis of surplus labor, as our reporter on the site learned.

In addition, construction, tilework, and carpentry cooperatives are ensuring the town's rapid growth because, besides engaging in their work for the benefit of IFLOMA employees, they are performing it in the enterprise's zone of influence as well.

Thus, anyone traveling along National Highway No 6 toward the town of Manica, even beyond the Messica River, sees on the left side many dwellings built of locally produced brick and roofing.

Here, as in the town of Messica itself, all the residences, educational establishments, and health stations, among other types of infrastructure to meet the needs of that population center, have already been constructed and electrified.

* Swedish Group Aids Chokwe Desalinization

90EF0011j Maputo NOTICIAS in Portuguese
5 Sep 89 p 3

[Text] The Swedish nongovernmental organization, ASDI [Swedish Agency for International Development],

is working jointly with SEMOC, the Seed Enterprise of Mozambique, on the recovery of an area of 200 hectares affected by a high degree of salinity in the Chokwe district of Gaza. This fact was disclosed to our correspondent in Xai-Xai by SEMOC's planning director. The 200 hectares to be recovered are part of 1,400 hectares belonging to SEMOC intended essentially for seed production use.

SEMOC came into existence as a result of the dismantling of the former Limpopo Agroindustrial Complex in 1983, when it received the name Lionde Seed Producers. The participation of the ASDI organization is a result of a bidding competition opened in 1987, on which occasion the enterprise became designated the Seed Enterprise of Mozambique.

The contract with the Swedes, aimed essentially at training Mozambican personnel and introducing modern work methods that will make it possible to improve the quality of the seed required and to recover the salty areas, is in effect for 5 years. For this purpose, the Swedish associate has an agronomical engineer present with a degree in business management, as well as several technicians qualified in the field of mechanization and agriculture.

There are 494 workers employed in the enterprise, prominent among whom are 17 Mozambican technicians with levels of qualification ranging from elementary to higher.

In addition to the marketing of seeds in the interior section of the country, with Zambezia Province as the largest consumer, our interviewee emphasized that the Republic of Zimbabwe is the major partner, receiving 200 tons of rice during an experimental phase.

The enterprise's recent production has been severely hurt by inadequate water supplies for irrigation, stemming from the projects under way in the Massingir lagoon. The problem of fertilizer shortage has been another concern. Nevertheless, as SEMOC's planning director claimed, efforts are being made to achieve its prompt importing.

According to our source, measures are under way for the definitive transfer of all marketing operations involving seed and chemical products to SEMOC, since it is an institution devoted to this activity.

*** Prospecting To Begin in Nacala-Velha**
90EF0011k Maputo NOTICIAS in Portuguese
5 Sep 89 p 3

[Text] As early as this year work is scheduled to begin in the Nacala-Velha district of Nampula Province on the prospecting and exploitation of feldspar and other minerals used in glass manufacturing, according to an announcement by Egas Mussanhane, one of the partners in the Northern Mining Company enterprise (SOMINO).

The work on excavating deposits, to be coordinated and executed by technicians from the National Institute of Geology and Mines, will be accompanied by activity to evaluate the reserves of other minerals normally associated with feldspar, which are plentiful in the subsoil of that Nampula Province district.

The source stressed that it is the intention of the Northern Mining Company, a private Mozambican firm established by only two partners, to engage in livestock development, making use of the district's potential in this area. However, this matter is still being subjected to analysis by the participating agencies.

Mussanhane also noted that the district government had expressed an interest in the execution of this mining project, because it thinks that such development could foster economic integration of the surrounding population, thus creating conditions for the employment of citizens in this part of the country.

The Northern Mining Company intends to exploit two units containing feldspar and other minerals that are components in glass manufacture, employing a total of 20 workers, primarily natives.

With no intention of exporting its mineral production for the present, SOMINO plans to supply only the Mozambique Glass Enterprise, for which purpose contacts are due to begin in the near future, according to Egas Mussanhane.

Preparations for this industry in that district, with backing from several national agencies, have begun this year with the creation of infrastructure for housing, during this preliminary phase for technicians from the National Institute of Geology and Mines, and subsequently for the workers who will be assigned to the project.

Zambia

*** Romanian Government Signs Accord To Dig Wells**

34000034a Lusaka TIMES OF ZAMBIA in English
25 Aug 89 p 7

[Excerpt] A Romanian company is to end water shortages in Luanshya and Kitwe by drilling boreholes costing about K1 million later this year.

Company spokesman Cde Virgil Enachescu said in Lusaka yesterday more machinery was being brought into Zambia to step up the sinking of boreholes to meet the increasing demand.

Bank of Zambia had already approved the money in the pipeline to buy equipment from Romania for the Geomin company.

Cde Enachescu said the company drilled about 200 boreholes in a year but with the new equipment expected in next month the number was expected to double.

"There was no need for Zambia to be experiencing water problems as there were vast supplies of it in rivers and underground," he said.

The Romanian and the Zambian governments have a protocol agreement to improve the water situation in Zambia by drilling wells in all parts of the country in liaison with district councils and other state agencies.

Geomin is fully booked up to March next year and the company foreman Toma Constantin was hopeful that no work would be delayed.

Water in most districts was a major concern for the Government as it had adverse effects on industries, especially tourism. [passage omitted]

* Scientific, Cultural Cooperation With Bulgaria

34000034b Lusaka *TIMES OF ZAMBIA* in English
20 Jul 89 p 1

[Excerpt] Sofia, Wednesday—Zambia and Bulgaria yesterday agreed to cooperate in five different areas of development and cemented the agreements at a colourful protocols signing ceremony here.

Party Secretary General Cde Grey Zulu, Central Committee member Cde Henry Meebelo, General Education Minister Dr Eli Mwanang'onze and Foreign Affairs Minister of State Cde Mavis Muyu da signed for Zambia while Cde Milko Balev, member of the politburo and secretary of the Central Committee of the Bulgarian Communist Party signed for his country.

Among the protocols signed were the 1990-1992 plan for cooperation between the Bulgarian Communist Party and UNIP [United National Independence Party], cooperation between the Academy of Social Sciences and management of the Central Committee of the Communist Party and the President's Citizenship College in Zambia, plus a protocol for cooperation between the ministries of foreign affairs of the two countries.

Signed too was a programme for scientific and cultural cooperation between Bulgaria and Zambia in addition to the protocol for cooperation in physical culture and sports.

Cde Zulu said Zambia would do her best to ensure she carried out her side of the bargain to implement the agreement.

Cde Balev assured Zambia that what had been signed would not only be acted upon but would immediately be adopted as policy by his party. [passage omitted]—ZANA

* India Signs \$250 Million Loan Agreement

34000034c Lusaka *SUNDAY TIMES OF ZAMBIA*
in English 20 Aug 89 p 9

[Text] India and Zambia in Lusaka yesterday signed a K250 million loan facility.

Finance senior permanent secretary Cde Leonard Nkhata signed for the Government while visiting joint secretary to the Indian government, Mr Ashoke Sen, signed for his government.

The package entails that K100 million is to come from the Indian government while the balance will be provided by Indian financial institutions.

Cde Nkhata said Zambia would draw from the loan through repaying dues to the Indian government, adding that for every K1 repaid from past loans Zambia would be able to draw K4 from the loan.

The agreement was put together in 1986 when former Prime Minister, Kebby Musokotwane, visited India, but Zambia could not draw from it because she had not yet worked out a schedule for borrowing.

Mr Sen, who is leading a delegation of bankers, had talks with Ministry of Finance officials on various aspects of Indo-Zambia economic cooperation.

An agreement has been reached between the two countries to reschedule outstanding Indian dues with Zambia.

Mr Sen said fresh credits would be available for export of capital goods, project equipment and consultancy services from India and his country would help Zambia in her programme of economic development and structural adjustment.

Credits are expected to give a stimulus to bilateral trade that currently has exceeded K2,000 million, making Zambia India's biggest trading partner in Africa.—ZANA.

Zimbabwe

* Agreement on British Aid Package Signed

34000059a Harare *THE HERALD* in English
7 Sep 89 p 1

[Text] Britain and Zimbabwe yesterday signed an aid package worth more than \$95 million to promote development projects, rehabilitate, transport and fill skills gaps in the civil service.

The biggest part is an \$86.5 million grant for projects to be mutually agreed upon in the next two days. This money is part of the funds pledged by the British Prime Minister, Mrs Margaret Thatcher, during her visit to Zimbabwe in March.

The second part is a \$945,000 grant for a computer, a computer expert and software for the Meteorological Department.

Computerisation is expected to provide more accurate data on weather forecasts for the benefit of farmers. Should this succeed, it will be extended to other SADCC

[South African Development Coordination Conference] countries, complementing the region's efforts to increase food production.

The third part is for the rehabilitation of ERF heavy-duty vehicles and tractors. About \$5 million in foreign exchange will be made available to buy spares for 48 road haulage units.

This project will make maximum use of local labour and facilities and will help reduce Zimbabwe's transport problems.

The fourth part is a \$3.5 million grant to meet the foreign exchange costs of assembling in Zimbabwe a range of Lansing electric forklift trucks by Willowvale Motor Industries in collaboration with Lansing UK and its local agent, J.W. Searcy.

A notable feature of this project is that some components will be manufactured locally, thereby creating jobs and saving the country thousands of dollars in foreign exchange.

The two countries also signed an agreement for the British Government to provide experts to fill posts in critical shortage areas in the public service.

Britain will provide part of the salary and other benefits to ensure that suitably qualified experts will be employed. This agreement replaces the one signed in August 1985.

The Secretary for Finance, Economic Planning and Development, Cde Elisha Mushayakarara, who signed on behalf of Zimbabwe, said the filling of skills gaps by British experts was a welcome development because of the manpower shortages being experienced in the country.

The British High Commissioner to Zimbabwe, Mr Kieran Prendergast, signed on behalf of his country. He said the aid package was a manifestation of the close co-operation between the two countries.

* Losses From Foot and Mouth Disease Estimated

34000059b Harare THE HERALD in English
30 Aug 89 p 1

[Text] The Dairy Marketing Board has suspended export orders worth \$3 million following the foot-and-mouth outbreak in May this year.

In addition, it is estimated that a further \$3 million worth of potential export orders have also been lost since the initial outbreak.

A Dairibord spokesman said yesterday the organisation normally exported products of 14 countries. Almost all had implemented the embargo.

The losses had been particularly severe because the period between May and October was a peak export period for the Dairibord.

"This was due to the seasonal nature of milk production, with the highest production in summer and the lowest in winter, and Dairibord took advantage of this cycle to build up surplus stocks of long shelf life milk products such as milk powder, cheese and butter for exports during the autumn and winter."

The spokesman said it was costly to hold such stocks. In view of the continuing foot-and-mouth problems, alternative marketing arrangements were being examined.

After the outbreak in May there was an embargo on the movement of dairy products from Zimbabwe to other countries. Colcom Central Africa Co-operative recently also reported the loss of "millions of dollars" as a result of the disease.

Foot-and-mouth can also be found in pork, but no pigs had been reported to have been infected yet.

Already, it is estimated that the cattle industry may have lost more than \$100 million worth of export orders following the EEC ban on the country's beef exports.

The ban has been tightened by recent outbreaks of the disease at some farms in Harare South, Mt Hampden and Ruwa areas.

The Department of Veterinary Services is taking stringent measures to control the spread of the disease.

But the department says its efforts were being hampered by lack of discipline by some communal, small-scale and commercial farmers who fail to report the presence of the disease on their farms resulting in the spread of the disease to neighbouring farms.

The situation was made worse by the continued illegal movement of cattle without the authority of the Department of Veterinary Services, and through stock theft, poaching, fence cutting and stray cattle which roam along railway lines and roads.

Meanwhile the Department of Veterinary Services is exhibiting for the first time at the Harare Agricultural Show. An official of the department at the stand yesterday said the department was showing the public some of the diseases in animals which were capable of being transmitted or affecting humans.

One of the diseases recently discovered in the country was enzootic bovine leu cosis. The spokesman said surveys were being carried out throughout the country to find out the prevalence of the disease.

* 25 Guarded Villages Protect From 'Bandits'

34000059c Harare THE HERALD in English
18 Sep 89 p 1

[Text] Twenty-five villages under police and army protection have been built in Rushinga to protect people from bandit attacks.

The district administrator for Rushinga, Cde Greaves Takawira, said that the villages were part of the district's long-term villagisation programme.

He said they were not "protected villages" as the Smith regime used to call a similar arrangement during the liberation struggle.

The villages, simple pole and dagga structures, were built by people themselves on 3,000 square metre stands. The only help they received from the Government was in the ferrying of their goods from their old homes.

The people were not forced by the authorities into these villages, but the security situation.

The haste at which the villages were built was not matched by the pace at which some basic amenities were provided.

The biggest problem for most of the villages is that of water. Although some villages were built near sources of water, or where boreholes already existed, as many as 25 boreholes are needed for the new villages. The District Development Fund has since sunk one borehole in the Makuni area since villagisation started early this year.

Cde Takawira appealed to donor organisations to come to the assistance of the villagers by funding the sinking of boreholes. "Between 20 and 25 boreholes are required," he said.

A grinding mill is needed. At the moment the army and the police sometimes are providing services to grinding mills at Rushinga district centre.

"People are having to walk long distances sometimes up to 40 km to a grinding mill," Cde Takawira said adding that in some areas people could just starve. He said Mukosa, Nyanhewe and Makuni could be potential disaster areas if assistance is not forthcoming.

Almost all of the general dealers including owners of grinding mills in the affected areas pulled out when the bandit incursions began.

* Economic Slowdown, Increase Inflation Forecast

34000059d Harare THE HERALD in English
15 Sep 89 p 1

[Text] After strong growth in the first half of this year, the economy is starting to slow down as output and transport constraints start to bite and the effects of last year's mediocre agricultural season are felt.

According to Standard Chartered Bank's latest economic bulletin, latest estimates are that the economy will slow down from growth of 5.3 percent last year to between 3 and 4 percent this year with inflation rising from 7 percent to between 10 and 15 percent although some think it will move as high as 20 percent by early next year.

The main reasons for this are given as the patchy rains of the 1988/89 agricultural season, which make it unlikely that value-added agriculture will repeat its 23 percent growth of last year—with knock-on effects throughout the rest of the economy.

"Manufacturing started the year on a very strong note after the slowdown in the final quarter of 1988. Output grew 8.3 percent in the first quarter of 1989, but this is expected to slow significantly in the latter half of the year," said the bulletin.

This was because of "transport and energy constraints, the tightening skills situation and some consumer resistance to higher prices" as well as foreign exchange shortages and continued price control problems.

The value of mining output had continued to grow although volume growth was modest, with nickel showing the greatest increase in earnings, thanks to buoyant prices.

The bulletin said that during the first four months of the year, nickel output was worth \$96 million compared with only \$37 million during the same period last year.

Copper production rose 80 percent in value to \$28 million while chrome ore was 35 percent up to \$19 million and asbestos 18 percent up at \$39 million.

But, because of the weaker gold price, the value of gold production fell slightly to \$118 million despite a 2.5 percent increase in output volume.

The rise in inflation was due to the gradual relaxation of the price freeze and recent wage awards and the bulletin said it was probable that a two-stage strategy would be used to beat inflation.

As had already happened, prices would gradually be allowed to rise while salaries were adjusted upwards and then, as the dismantling of the price freeze continued, monetary policy would be tightened with tighter credit and higher interest rates at the end of next year.

* Promotion of Mozambique Fish Products Agreed

34000059e Harare THE HERALD in English
16 Sep 89 p 3

[Text] Maputo—The Mozambican State fish marketing body, Pescom, yesterday signed an agreement with the Zimbabwe State Trading Corporation [ZSTC] aimed at selling and promoting Pescom's products in Zimbabwe.

The agreement was signed between the director of Pescom, Cde Felisberto Manuel, and ZSTC director, Cde Joseph Kubuka.

Speaking at the ceremony, Cde Manuel said that the agreement followed Mozambique's efforts in the last two years to increase the volume of marine produce sold in Zimbabwe, especially prawns.

Prawns are one of the country's main foreign exchange earners.

Cde Kubuka recalled that Pescom had participated in the Zimbabwe International Trade Fair in Bulawayo in May this year. He said that after the Trade Fair, Mozambican sea products proved to have what he called "a big market in Zimbabwe."

Cde Kubuka said that ZSTC will in turn soon export to Mozambique a variety of food items.—Ziana-AIM.

Benin

* Kerekou Discusses Amnesty, SAP, Budget

90EF0005a Cotonou EHUZU in French
4 Sep 89 pp 3, 10

[Interview with President Kerekou by a correspondent of International French Radio; reported by Leon Brathier.]

[Text] The recent decision for general amnesty made by the Political Bureau of the Beninese People's Revolutionary Party and the general agreement between the parties to the Chadian-Libyan conflict were the main topics of conversation in the interview. President Kerekou granted last Friday to Assan Diop of International French Radio.

The Final List of Amnesty Cases After the Decision

As was expected, the recent amnesty was the primary concern of Assan Diop, who asked the head of state whether it was possible to have of list of the Beninese affected by the amnesty decision.

Answering this question, President Kerekou stated that he could not provide a list until the law legalizing this decision is adopted by the Permanent Committee of the Revolutionary National Assembly. The head of state indicated in this regard that the urgency of the situation is what led the Political Bureau to make the decision the subject of a law.

However, he explained that 30 persons are affected by the amnesty measure covering the partners, perpetrators, and accomplices involved in the armed aggression to destabilize the revolutionary regime mounted on 16 January 1977, and the failed coups d'etat on 18 October 1975, and on 21, 22, and 23 January 1975. President Kerekou added that in addition to these people who were tried and convicted and who are, therefore, the real legal beneficiaries of this decision, the voluntary exiles, whom the government is not blaming for anything, are also covered by this amnesty. There are 29 of them. President Kerekou said that the third category includes activists advocating armed insurrection by the people in the name of a so-called true revolution, under the pompous title of the Communist Party of Dahomey. The head of state has said that the party and the government has invited them to make their contribution to help the country out of the current crisis.

A Technical Reply to the Issue of the Teachers

[Answer] On the issue of the teachers' claims and the working meetings he has had with them, President Kerekou first went over all these claims and then said that some of them would require a technical study on the part of the ministries involved, namely those for the two levels of education and the Finance Ministry, and that the results of this study should be published this week, instead of 30 August as scheduled at the last meeting

with the teachers. The last meeting was devoted to the opening of the Porto-Novo colloquium.

Structural Adjustment Is a Matter of Survival

[Answer] Tackling the questions regarding implementation of the structural adjustment program [SAP], the head of state again underlined the serious shortcomings of administrative personnel that led to the bankruptcy of the banking system. He explained that by the end of the year, the study on authorization by private banks in Benin would be completed. As for the rehabilitation of public and semipublic enterprises, President Kerekou again stressed the government's determination to put an end to all empirical management that in the past has meant that enterprises founded to achieve satisfactory results, have been content to live on bank overdrafts to cover high-wage costs.

The head of state went on to say that the structural adjustment program also requires a reduction in the overstaffed public sector. To this end, he added, the program has instituted rational measures such as the voluntary departure of government employees. President Kerekou urged workers not to sabotage implementation of this program by harmful types of work stoppages. He placed emphasis on the fact that this program is an undeniable reality and a matter of survival for the Beninese people.

The Operating Budget Will Be Funded With Taxes

As regards support for this program from lenders, President Kerekou indicated that the promptness of [other] countries' participation would depend on the time required by the lenders' procedures. At the top of the list of countries that have already specifically made known their intention to participate, the head of state places France, followed by Switzerland and the Federal Republic of Germany.

President Kerekou said that the government's operating budget should be funded with the taxes collected by the government. He indicated that people should not expect easy solutions, which are prejudicial to our dignity.

We Applaud the Agreement on the Chadian-Libyan Conflict

Chad was the last subject of the interview. President Kerekou, giving his assessment of the general agreement concluded the previous day between Libya and Chad, basically had this to say: "We congratulate and encourage President Chadli to maintain contact between the parties."

The head of state was pleased with this successful outcome; one of the earlier signs was the voluntary return to their country of Chadian refugees reassured by the restoration of peace.

Ghana

* Registration of Religious Bodies Explained

34000058d Accra GHANAIAN TIMES in English
24 Aug 89 p 3

[Text] The National Commission on Culture yesterday indicated that religious bodies would pay the registration of C50,000 only when they have been issued with provisional certificate by the commission.

The fee would be paid to the Registrar General's Department.

In the case of churches with branches in other parts of the country, only the headquarters is required to pay the registration fee. Each of the branches will, however, buy and complete registration forms and submit them to the District Administration.

According to the process of registration, all religious bodies should purchase their forms from the District Administration to whom the completed forms should be returned.

The District Administration would, after physical inspection of the premises of the church or the place of worship as appropriate, forward the forms to the Regional Administration.

The Regional Administration would forward the completed forms to the National Committee for Religious Affairs which has responsibility for vetting applications and making recommendations on them to the National Commission on Culture.

When an application has finally been approved, the Chairman of the Commission would issue a provisional certificate on the basis of which the Registrar General would effect the registration of the particular religious body.

The Commission requested all religious bodies to comply with all the regulations of PNDC [Provisional National Defense Council] Law 211.

The deadline for the submission of applications by religious bodies had been extended to 14th November, 1989, the Commission said.

* Islamic Preaching Banned in Wa Area

34000058e Accra GHANAIAN TIMES in English
11 Sep 89 p 1

[Article by John Arsene]

[Text] The Upper West Security Council has with immediate effect banned all forms of public preaching by any Islamic sects at Wa.

Mr Yelibora Antumini, the Regional Secretary, announced this at an emergency meeting with leaders of the various Islamic sects at Wa.

The meeting was convened following disturbances by some members of both the orthodox and Ahmadiyya factions last week-end.

He warned that it was now an offence for any of the sects to conduct preaching session popularly known as "Waazu" in the mosque or after prayers.

He made it clear that acts of lawlessness in whatever form exhibited by Muslims would not be tolerated.

Mr Antumini said investigations had shown that certain Muslim elements were trying to use the preaching sessions after normal prayers to fan trouble in the regional capital and warned that they would be dealt with when caught.

The Regional Secretary appealed to the Muslim leaders to use their positions to educate their members to desist from acts which will undermine peace and stability.

* Church Still Exerting 'Cultural Dictatorship'

34000058f Accra GHANAIAN TIMES in English
26 Aug 89 p 2

[Text] A speaker in a GBC [Ghana Broadcasting Corporation] television programme on Thursday night mentioned that one of the Protestant churches still insist that non-wedded married women members of the church are not entitled to receive the Holy Communion.

The truth is that all the orthodox churches are guilty of this offence against the nation's culture—their injection of the time-tested, honourable, grand, and entirely responsible customary marriage.

Somebody once defended the church on this matter by arguing that the church is a body with regulations for membership and that, in any case, belonging to the church is not compulsory. This is not true; there is nothing voluntary about church membership.

We all went to the church out of blackmail. On the coming of colonial rule, being baptized into the church meant the only chance for formal education and employment. Everyone else was a pagan, a nobody, and a servant of the 'enlightened' and exclusive Christian community.

The post-independence process of redressing the situation did not succeed, because the new African ruling class comprised the already brainwashed educated Christians, and they have passed on the tradition. We all became Christians in order to be educated and employed.

After thus succeeding in making everyone a churchman by duress, what can stop the church from superimposing its cultural dictatorship on the society—to the extent of still condemning the nation's marriage law as uncivilized!

Liberia*** Firestone Curtailing Rubber Production**

34000056a Monrovia DAILY OBSERVER in English
23 Aug 89 pp 1, 3

[Article by T-Max Teah: "Rubber Price Drops; Firestone Takes New Measures"]

[Text] The Firestone Plantations Company has taken several steps affecting its operations in response to a glut of rubber concentrate on the world market which has caused the price of rubber to tumble.

Firestone says it is "literally producing more latex concentrate" than it can sell, thus it has been taking "deliberate, reasoned and less costly steps to curtail our intake of field latex".

The measures which took effect last May include a reduction in the number of days for tapping from seven to six days weekly, the "resting" of 1685 acres of rubber in Division B and 1810 acres in Division C, and the conversion of Morris Farm from latex to cup lump production of about two million pounds. Other measures are the making of coagulum from Divisions I and R amounting to about 10 million pounds and the postponement of the opening of 1500 acres in Division Q.

Firestone said that the prices of other rubber products have dropped as well, although not as drastically, while industry experts forecast that the surplus in latex concentrate will last until the middle of next year.

These drastic measures on the part of Firestone, a major rubber buyer and planter in Liberia, are expected to have an adverse effect on local rubber producers. Firestone warns that until some improvement in the demand and price for rubber and latex concentrate is seen, "we will have to tighten our belts and watch our pennies".

Last year Firestone took some steps "to encourage local rubber farmers to open or expand their operations". Among steps taken in this direction were the opening of a latex buying station in Kpein, the undertaking of a latex buying station project in Bomi Hills, and the re-establishment of the company's Farm Advisory Department.

In November last year Firestone reported that the year had been a successful one and announced that the production goal for the 1988/89 fiscal year was 108 million D.R.C. [expansion unknown] pounds with an expected yield of about 1800 pounds per mature acre, a figure comparable to the very best plantations in the Far East.

However, despite the glut on the world market, Firestone gave some hope to its employees when it said that it will continue to progress towards becoming the world's best as well as largest rubber plantation.

*** Agricultural Supplies Get Duty-Free Privilege**

34000056b Monrovia DAILY OBSERVER in English
18 Aug 89 pp 1, 10

[Article by Philip N. Wesseh]

[Excerpt] The Liberian Government yesterday announced the granting of duty-free privileges for the importation of agro-machines, farm tools and fertilizers as an incentive for agro-investment.

During a four-hour cabinet meeting at the Executive Mansion, the government also decided that long term land lease opportunities will be offered to both local and foreign investors for large-scale investment in agricultural activities.

In a bid to reduce rice importation and increase local production, the cabinet also decided that Liberians who have graduated from the College of Agriculture and Forestry of the University of Liberia, the Rural Development Institute and other agricultural institutions will be employed and assigned to the various counties to develop large-scale rice farms.

The cabinet also called on agro and other concessional companies in the country to provide assistance and opportunities for their employees to engage in rice farming.

This latest move by the cabinet comes after the Liberian leader made a two-week tour of the city and its environs soliciting views on how to make the nation self-sufficient in food production. At the time, many raised the issues of land tenure, incentives for farmers and the development of agricultural graduates to the rural areas to engage in agriculture.

Also, the action taken to ensure the availability of rice on the Liberian market comes at a time of acute shortage of the commodity on the market. [passage omitted]

Nigeria*** Paper Criticizes Obasanjo's 'Mischief'**

34000067b Kaduna NEW NIGERIAN in English
21 Sep 89 p 1

[Text] The status of former head of state is one which normally attracts respect, but which at the same time demands sobriety, responsibility and propriety in speech and conduct, from those holding such status. Quite unfortunately in the last few years this mutual balance has been frequently breached by Olusegun Obasanjo, retired General and former Head of State. It may be recalled that in July 1986, Obasanjo launched a quadruped public attack on the administration of President Ibrahim Babangida. The greater part of that attack dwelt on the Babangida administration's transition programme, and its economic recovery policies. One year later, on April 1988, the former head of state once again launched a bitter public attack on Federal Government

policies at the fifth Herbert Macaulay Memorial lecture of the University of Nigeria, Nsukka to the embarrassment of his hosts.

This year again, using the medium of a letter he circulated to the press, Obasanjo a few days ago offered a mean, low-handed public outburst to a private request asking him to participate in a workshop on national economic recovery. Before ever going into the necessary details, it is crucial to point out here that, in the most recent incident, one: Obasanjo had been invited to speak on "agriculture and rural development," and not on structural adjustment programme. Two: that the workshop, billed for October 9, and organized by the University of Lagos Consultancy Services Unit along with the Presidency, has eleven sub-themes covering the entire spectrum of the national economy. In his reply however, Obasanjo said he would not take part in any workshop on structural adjustment. Describing such a workshop as "an exercise in gimmickry, make-belief, deceit and futility," Obasanjo said "a solution to a human problem must not be regarded as one solution. There must be other solutions."

This was our former head of state's calculated off-target reply to the private invitation made to him to speak on "agriculture and rural development," yet on innumerable occasions, different officials of the Babangida administration have pointed out that the issue is not one of "alternatives" to structural adjustment, but the "viability," meaning how well these alternatives can solve our own peculiar problems in our own peculiar socio-economic and political environment. Without doubt, Obasanjo fully understands these dynamics of our environment more than most other Nigerians, clearly therefore, in side-tracking his main given topic and basing his reply on the now politicized issue and mischief-loaded issue of "alternatives," Obasanjo made a reaction that was full of calculated mischief, malicious, contempt and meanness that should not at all be associated with a former head of state.

Before going on to examine Obasanjo's recent tirade in detail, it is worth noting that some observers have attributed Obasanjo's near-pathological disaffection for the Babangida administration, to the fact that Obasanjo has continued to be haunted by certain factors. All revolving around the person of the President, General Ibrahim Babangida: one, his desertion from his military post as Deputy Head of State and Chief of Staff Supreme Headquarters, during Dimka's abortive 1976 coup. Obasanjo slipped into hiding on hearing of the assassination of his Commander-in-Chief and immediate superior, General Murtala Muhammed.

In his book, "Military Leadership in Nigeria 1966-79" published by University Press Limited, Ibadan, 1985 edition, page 191, Major-General Oluleye, who was General Staff Officer (I), at the then Supreme Military Headquarters, said: "Anyway, there was no succession crisis as Obasanjo had not reported to his office by the time the tragedy struck on that fateful and black Friday.

His (Obasanjo's) A.D.C. who went to bring some files from the office saw General Muhammed's corpse... and went back to break the news to him. (Obasanjo), on hearing the bad news, he (Obasanjo) immediately slipped into hiding to avoid being pronounced a hero posthumously," this constitutes the ultimate crime in military tradition—desertion." It is noteworthy, that when General Yakubu Gowon, who was Head of State during the civil war, was asked by pressmen to comment on spates of books written by retired generals, his answer was: "General James Oluleye who was General Staff Officer (I) at Military Headquarters is the most authoritative on the subject." It took the then Lt-Colonel Ibrahim Babangida's incredible courage and bravery to crush the abortive coup and enable General Obasanjo to take on the mantle of leadership, even though reluctantly, as he publicly announced. It is noteworthy that the same Lt-Colonel Ibrahim Babangida provided Obasanjo with the armored cars and ferret tanks for protection throughout his tenure.

Also, from 1979 after Obasanjo's departure from office he assumed increasing irrelevance within his immediate environment following attacks from the Lagos-Ibadan media axis for his handling of his transition programme. These attacks obliterated him from public limelight into oblivion, being overshadowed by the late elder statesman Papa Awolowo.

Again, it took now General Ibrahim Babangida to rescue the same Obasanjo from irrelevance and oblivion into national and international limelight by nominating and sponsoring Obasanjo for the membership of Eminent Person's Group for Southern Africa. Having found his feet, and after due rehabilitation, it seems Obasanjo has in the last few years decided to mount attacks on the same man who helped bring him to international prominence.

On the comparison of their different administrations, Obasanjo seems to be haunted by the failures of his own administration, these failures include Obasanjo's terrible botching of the operation feed the nation programme, his making a fiasco of the universal free education scheme, his obtaining two absolutely unnecessary giant loans of 1.75 billion U.S. dollars, which helped provide the second republic politicians the resource for their national squandermania.

Taking the Operation Feed the Nation (O.F.N) first, we find that Obasanjo's vision for agriculture, which he so disastrously failed to realize, is what has become a reality today under the Babangida administration. This Obasanjo vision for agriculture, discernible from his 21 May 1976 speech at the formal launching of the OFN. We quote from chapter 2, of Survey of Nigerian Affairs 1976-77, published by the Nigerian Institute of International Affairs. Said Obasanjo: "Operation Feed the Nation is the most ambitious and critical programme of direct benefit to the farmer this nation has ever embarked upon. It will, for the first time, guarantee that farmers who form the overwhelming proportion of our

people, share directly in our prosperity." As we all know however, the OFN was riddled with massive corruption and finally died a natural death. The greatest beneficiary seems to have been the Otta Farm, the farm which has become the center for national and international political activities, clandestine ethnic meetings, center of subversion and the abduction of innocent citizens on legitimate duties. However, what OFN failed to achieve for the suffering peasant farmers and masses, who are now reaping abundant profits from sales of cocoa and other farm products, is what the structural adjustment programme is achieving today. We wonder where human face was during Obasanjo's tenure.

Also, Obasanjo's indecorous utterances have been attributed to certain tenure-comparisons which favor the Babangida regime. For example, Obasanjo ran the nation's affairs when oil cost over 25 dollars a barrel, and his defence spending was an average 16.8 percent of the annual budget. Today, oil costs an average 14 dollars a barrel and the nation's defence spending has been kept at an average of 5 percent of the annual budget. But perhaps the most important psychological factor for Obasanjo's near-pathological disaffection for the Babangida administration, is the revolutionary political strategy which has based the current transition programme on a two-party system, thus making it impossible for the nation's politics to be divided along any parochial lines.

Obasanjo's abysmal failure in this area was his administration's acceptance of the proliferation of parties, under his hurried and mediocre transition programme, which experts agree laid the foundation for the demise of the second republic. Moreover, Obasanjo has himself perceived that a radical change in any society is through quantitative change from socio-economic decay and collapse of our two republics, to a higher qualitative socio-economic and political change, to the powerful Third Republic, which has President Babangida as the founding father. Thus, seeing Babangida on the verge of a historical break-through, retired General Obasanjo's obsession with the transition structural adjustment, and transition programmes, has reached a point of paranoid. It is against the above background that we now examine Obasanjo's publicly-circulated letter.

Senegal

* Plans To Develop Disputed Area Discussed

90EF0006a Paris JEUNE AFRIQUE ECONOMIE
in French Aug 89 pp 68-71

[Article by Ibrahima Signate: "Dams and Then What?"]

[Text] The construction on the Senegal River of the Diama dam (south along the Senegalese-Mauritanian border) and the Manantali dam (in Mali) was the subject of a lively dispute in its time. In the eyes of some people, the cost of these gigantic projects (400 billion CFA francs) was a problem, since their effectiveness and

profitability were far from guaranteed. A number of people condemned these "white elephants" and would have rather had a series of small dams better adapted to the possibilities of the countries concerned and less damaging to the environment. The officials of the three countries, however, refused to be swayed, in view of the dangers of desertification. The agricultural land needed to be profoundly transformed and there had to be protection against the uncertainties of the weather. This project would reduce energy dependency and make it possible for the countries to become self-sufficient in food by the year 2000, ensuring the irrigation of 375,000 hectares, 120,000 of which were in Senegal.

Decisive Period for the Economy

Today the two dams are a reality (Diama in 1986 and Manantali in 1988). In theory, they are to be put into operation immediately. But a series of difficulties has arisen, because a decisive stage in the economic and social development of the countries bordering the river is contingent on the coordinated management of the area now that the dams have been built. For Senegal, the dams represent irrigable, double-crop land and 500 megawatts of energy a year. Continuous navigation as far as Kayes is of great interest to Mali. A program of action was drafted by the Ministry of Planning and Cooperation in Senegal to ensure development of the potential offered by the river basin. In this context, land management in Senegal and Mauritania was altered to account for the new situation. Senegal, for instance, decided to return to the rural communities the "pioneer zones" granted to government enterprises. This means that the rural communities are now responsible for managing the irrigable land. The government, however, maintains control over some irrigable land to ensure a return on the expensive investments, since management of the infrastructure is under its jurisdiction.

In any case, the small private family farms should not suffer from the appearance of small and medium-sized agricultural enterprises financed by national capital or large foreign private agribusinesses. This would cause an imbalance in the social fabric and could even give rise to lasting frustrations. Thus allocation of land for small farming needs will be the exclusive responsibility of the rural councils for the benefit of the local people, migrant members of the community, and nationals from other regions. The distribution of plots for medium-sized farms is the responsibility of the government and the rural councils. As for large private enterprises, it is the government which, after consulting with the rural council, will be in charge of allocating land to them. Partnerships in which national interests hold a significant portion of the equity capital will be given priority. Speculation by foreign corporations will be restricted.

Defusing Conflicts and Readjusting

The property issue is a sensitive area where violent conflicts can arise at any time because of the social and cultural configuration of the river valley. For this reason,

so-called follow-up measures are being planned in Senegal. A system for ongoing observation and monitoring is planned to defuse possible conflicts and to provide for the necessary readjustments. A regional commission to monitor management of the land after the dams are operating should also provide valuable assistance as a result of its regional view of the land's potential and its knowledge of socio-economic and demographic data.

As important as land management is management of the water. It is clear, in fact, that the pace of development and reclamation of the land depends on the availability, in terms of quality and quantity, of water resources. To this end, technical and institutional measures at national and regional level (Organization of Senegal River States-OMVS) are currently under study. They will provide for the creation of an agency to manage the dams. It will collect royalties on the water supplied and work out a water plan based on the Senegal River, Guiers Lake, Cayor Canal, and Ferlo Valley. However, the establishment of a single water management structure will not be needed until the amount of irrigated planted land reaches 60,000 hectares. Administration will be turned over to the Company for the Development and Utilization of the Senegal River Delta (SAED) for the river and its tributaries on the left bank (Senegalese side) and to the National Water and Equipment Company of Senegal (SONEES) for the entire area (Taoury-Guiers Lake).

Implementation of the overall policy, once the dams are in use, requires a series of consultative procedures and technical, so-called "piloting" instruments that are in advanced stages of preparation. These include the National Committee for Coordination and Monitoring of the Development of the Valley and the "after-dam" structure that will provide the secretariat for the National Committee and follow-up on implementation of decisions. SAED, for its part, is in charge of implementing development programs, together with other structures concerned.

A Master Plan Will Be the Frame of Reference

As for the master plan for the integrated development of the river valley (PDRG), it constitutes a unique frame of reference for planning; it will analyze the various possible scenarios for developing the area. Beginning in June 1989, this should make it possible to have a plan for using and allocating the land, a hydraulic plan for the river, an equipment plan for the infrastructure, and an action plan for integrated development operations. An investor's guide should follow. Preparations for putting the dams into use are not limited to provisions for developing the hundreds of thousands of hectares of land. They cover ecological monitoring, livestock raising, fishing, training manpower, the social reintegration of immigrants, etc.

From an ecological standpoint, development of irrigated farming will entail progressively increasing emissions of toxic products that could have harmful effects on the natural environment. Thus, constant monitoring and

control of the ecological parameters, coordination of the activities of the various structures with analytical capabilities, and establishment of qualitative use standards for the water and land are needed.

In general, the introduction of new technologies for development of the river basin will also entail the "upgrading of human resources," or, in other words, training the local people, most of whom are illiterate, by an information and education campaign adapted to the environment. In this context, the original immigrants in the region, thanks to the know-how they have acquired abroad, will make their contribution to the new profile of the valley.

Reintegration of Migrant Workers

Because of their economic weight, the process for developing the valley must take into account the reintegration of migrant workers. Among them, those who have considerable financial resources might invest them in development programs. It is also important to coordinate national development policies in the three countries to avoid discrepancies. In fact, the failure to coordinate policies could cause a massive exodus of people to high-growth areas and delay the development of energy resources.

Turning to land policies, inconsistent national strategies could create constant tensions that would undermine any development efforts. Moreover, marked disparities in pricing policies could cause large flows from one side of the river to another. This lack of an adequate structure for coordination is felt, since the High-Commission of the OMVS does not have significant powers in this area. There must be a common political will to overcome these obstacles. The colloquium scheduled for the end of 1989 could provide an opportunity to work out a joint strategy, if its conclusions are ratified by the conference of the heads of state.

Diama and Manantali in Figures

The Senegal River basin is inhabited by nearly one million people, over 50 percent of whom are Senegalese, about 5 percent Malians, and nearly 45 percent Mauritians. The purpose of building the two dams on the river is to develop nonfood crops in the region by increasing the amount of land under irrigation, improving navigation and fishing, and producing electrical power.

The Diama dam, which was completed in 1986, is located in the river delta on the border between Senegal and Mauritania, 23 kilometers from the town of Saint-Louis. It is meant to prevent the salt water from flowing back up into the river during the dry season, to feed Guiers Lake, which supplies Dakar, with freshwater, and to irrigate about 400,000 hectares of land for a two-crop cycle.

The catchment area initially should cover 235 km² and have a 250 million m³ capacity. The total cost of the Diama dam will be 34,750 million CFA francs.

The Manantali dam is located on the Bafing in Fouta Djallon, 90 km from Bajoulabe in Mali. A catchment basin covering 50,000 hectares with a flow rate of 193 m³ per second is planned. Fifty to a hundred thousand hectares of land will be irrigated. Senegal and Mali are expecting this dam to produce between 600 and 1,000 GWh [gigawatt hours] a year, even in the dry season.

In the future, the Diama and Manantali dams should make it possible to develop approximately 786,000 hectares of land in Senegal and some 580,000 hectares in Mauritania.

Overall, the development of the Senegal River should improve navigation and make it possible for ships to go back up as far as Kayar at all times, making the river a means of communication particularly useful for the three countries.

* Status of Railroad Geared To Make Profit

90EF0006b Paris JEUNE AFRIQUE ECONOMIE
in French Aug 89 pp 98-101

[Excerpts] The Senegalese railway has just decided to take a new form. The RCFS (Senegalese Railroad Administration), nearly 30 years since it was established on 27 Aug 1960, is in the process of obtaining a new legal status. Its conversion from a government institution into a national corporation, accomplished with the assistance of the World Bank, is going to enable it to further improve its performance and to realize a satisfactory return.

Three basic objectives are set for this conversion. First, it is meant to increase the enterprise's autonomy and to increase the responsibility of managers and administrative personnel; thus, the budget will no longer be submitted to the sponsoring authorities for prior approval. Then, a flexible management system is to be adopted, similar to that found in private enterprise, with a change in procedures for making contracts. Finally, this statutory change will allow for personnel to have a unique status under the labor code, based on the principle of collective bargaining.

To complete these measures and to give them weight, the decision was made to sign a master contract with the Senegalese Government setting forth the objectives set for this national corporation, the strategy and obligations of the national corporation, and the government's commitments to it. The master contract, identical to ones already signed with other Senegalese enterprises, has a system for monitoring performance and, if necessary, for applying penalties in the event commitments are not respected.

It is not by chance that this change in the statutes of the RCFS is occurring at a time when the general manager is

a railway employee himself. Six years after setting up a large investment program designed to restore the administration's capacities, both with regards to infrastructure and rolling stock, the head of state, President Abdou Diouf, decided, in fact, to appoint Mbaye Diouf to head the railroads. "The fact that the president chose a railway employee," the latter points out, seems to me to be a sign of renewed confidence in the ability of the entire staff of the administration to meet the challenges that the railroad must face." [passage omitted.]

* Japanese Ambassador on Aid, Private Investments

34190364a Dakar WAL FADJRI in French
18 Aug 89 pp 14-15

[Interview with Mutsuhei Murata, Japanese ambassador, by Mamadou Ndiaye: "For Heart-To-Heart Relations"; date and place not specified]

[Text] Defeated but not demoralized in 1945, Japan went on to develop a strategy to reconquer its identity. Forty years later, it is nearly going banco! The country is back on the way to growth and boosts the morale of its people while retaining the positive values of its traditions, which it articulates around modern imperatives. The Japanese set great store by work and believe that it is essential to human development. In this respect, their perception of cooperation includes new aspects that traditional diplomacy had underestimated until now. For Japan, prosperity presupposes a reduction of the poverty that is so widespread in developing countries. Is that unrealistic? Not really. It is a foreign policy choice that does not tolerate any ambiguity. Invigorated by a large trade surplus, Japan demonstrates the vitality of its companies and the know-how of the men who manage them. Could it invest in Africa tomorrow? Where are the Japanese funds that could be channeled to Africa? Does our continent offer a favorable investment climate? Can we and/or should we imitate the Japanese development model? New vistas are opening. The Africans should rush in to seize the opportunities based, in the following interview, on the pointers provided by the Japanese ambassador to Senegal, Mr Mutsuhei Murata who reviews below the main orientations of Japanese cooperation.

[WAL FADJRI] What is Japan's cooperation policy toward Africa?

[Murata] Japanese cooperation is both bilateral and multilateral. However, where Africa is concerned, our country's cooperation policy is quite unique. Africa accounts for 11 percent of public aid to development (APD), with 9.8 percent going to the sub-Saharan region. Naturally, this margin will increase. One characteristic of our cooperation resides in the increasing proportion of gifts of 60 percent or so; to this should be added the body of volunteers, 40 percent of whom willingly go to Africa. However, to ensure that its efforts are efficient, Japan develops initiatives at the international level.

These boil down to three options: cooperation for peace, the strengthening of international cultural exchanges, and increased APD designed to support the independent efforts of developing countries.

[WAL FADJRI] What are the criteria used in planning Japanese cooperation? Are they political? Economic? Or are both types used?

[Murata] Generally speaking, multiple criteria are used. The essential principle, however, is to meet basic human needs. Incidentally, taking into account the standards of living of recipient countries remains a decisive factor in the hierarchy of criteria. Second consideration: bilateral relations, which revolve around mutual dependence. Japan evaluates the countries with which it cooperates based on their contribution to the strengthening of peaceful ideals and the expansion of progress. In this connection, my country follows with much interest the domestic development of Senegal, with respect to both the stability of its institutions and the political pluralism it has been experimenting with, not without success. This being said, economic criteria are inseparable from these evaluation factors, although they may fit into a wider domain of our international cooperation policy.

[WAL FADJRI] Japan is the leading world creditor. Now, your country keeps increasing its bilateral aid—its volume of aid to the Third World was multiplied tenfold within a decade—at a time when state public engagement is declining in favor of the private sector. How do you reconcile both options?

[Murata] There is no direct link between the two phenomena that you describe so well. Japan pursues its policy of aid to the Third World and is equally pleased with the mutations that are taking place. The goal is to revive economies by increasing the part played by private initiatives. Our philosophy rests on one principle: there is no prosperity for Japan without prosperity for the Third World.

[WAL FADJRI] For the first time, too, you have signed a rescheduling agreement of Senegal's debt with the Ministry of Economy and Finance. Does that reflect a change in the objectives of your cooperation policy?

[Murata] I must tell you that the signature of this agreement is the result of the principle of decreasing the debts of the poorer countries, a principle adopted at the Toronto summit last year. Of course, Senegal finds itself at a higher level of the schedule initially set by the Toronto principle, but, considering the efforts it has made, Japan wanted to make sure that Senegal would benefit from it.

[WAL FADJRI] Will Senegal continue to benefit from the APD?

[Murata] By stressing the economic aspect of its cooperation, Japan intends thus to contribute to the economic

development of Senegal. But I imagine that your question probably touched on the promotion of private investments....

[WAL FADJRI] Quite so.

[Murata] Then, the problem should be first presented in a different manner. That is because efforts at mutual understanding are useful to avoid mistakes in the perception of both environments. In Japan, businesses are private in the full sense of the term and decide sovereignly [as translated] to invest wherever they perceive opportunities. It depends on cost, risk, and benefit computations that are made upstream, prior to developing their own investment strategy. In this respect, it is up to Africa as a whole, and Senegal, in particular, to improve the investment climate by making the environment more attractive. It is possible to attract Japanese capital, but Japanese investors are very finicky when it comes to taxes or job flexibility, which they also see as assets in setting the bases for a better comparative advantage.

[WAL FADJRI] Yet, the African market is wide, large and strong. Is it, therefore, that there is a problem in informing Japanese businesses or making them aware of this market?

[Murata] Strengthening African-Japanese cooperation will enable Japanese businessmen to make contact with Africa. These contacts, in turn, will enable them to listen positively while at the same time removing the obstacles to understanding.

[WAL FADJRI] Japan has always been in favor of bilateral cooperation. But isn't its increasing involvement on the international scene likely to favor a slight increase in multilateral cooperation?

[Murata] Let's look at figures: currently, our bilateral cooperation represents as much as 70 percent of our global cooperation, compared with 30 percent for multilateral cooperation. In view of economic mutations, some adjustments were necessary. Japan's presence within multilateral institutions such as the IMF and the World Bank also placed other responsibilities on my country. These two options are even complementary in increasing the scope of Japanese cooperation. Yet, bilateral cooperation is being modified in order to correct its defects. As an illustration, Japan will start a political dialogue with Senegal in order to determine the country's actual needs, and a series of operations have been targeted: introduction of new forms of nonrepayable subsidies, in particular, a subsidy to support the structural adjustment program. In this context, and during the past 3 years, Africa has received close to \$500 million in gifts from the Japanese Government and, at the Paris summit meeting, the Japanese Government also promised to increase this amount to \$600 million.

[WAL FADJRI] Japanese cooperation is known for its pragmatism, but it still has a philanthropic character. Without overlooking assistance, can this cooperation

become an incentive to invest in strong sectors in Africa, a continent that in time might become a potential market for Japanese business leaders?

[Murata] Providing an incentive to investment is neither a diplomatic mission nor a state prerogative. Having a liberal tradition, Japan is developing a market economy that sets up rules of behavior. Cooperation between states is the province of the government, whereas private cooperation is the province of the private sector. These two entities determine quite independently and in different ways their respective development zones. The proof is that our public-loan system rejects conditionality; in other words, obtaining Japanese financing is not—far from it—dependent on the purchase of Japanese equipment. This is a considerable improvement.

[WAL FADJRI] As an economic power, how do you intend to support Senegal in its structural adjustment program?

[Murata] The greater flexibility of loan terms will benefit Senegal to a greater extent. That is certain. From a more practical point of view, we have just signed an agreement with the Senegalese Government providing for a nonrepayable subsidy of about 2,500 million yens, plus a 4,100-yen loan. Last year's visit of the president of the Republic to Japan has further strengthened the ties between the two countries, by making possible the opening of efficient credit lines. In addition, Japan's presence within the Bretton Woods institutions constitutes an additional factor of motivation.

[WAL FADJRI] Personally, what content do you intend to give to your mission as head of the Japanese chancellery?

[Murata] In my opinion, it is high time for Africa and Japan to establish relations of high community significance, reflecting the values they share in many domains. If these relations evolve like the relations between Senegal and Japan, it would not be an exaggeration to say that they are the avant-garde of cooperation. Therefore, it is important to diversify cooperation by multiplying exchanges between individuals, cultural exchanges, for instance, in order to increase mutual understanding and mutual respect. As for us, our objective remains to establish heart-to-heart relations. When I took up this position, I learned the African saying: "Where the heart is not, the feet don't go!" I can assure you that I am in Senegal with my heart.

*** Intimidation, No War Footing at Bissau Border**

34190364b Dakar WAL FADJRI in French
18 Aug 89 pp 10-11

[Article by special correspondent Ousseynou Gueye: "Senegal/Guinea-Bissau: The Hour of the Southern Front"]

[Excerpts] On the southern border, the sound of boots has not been heard yet. The border remains the crossing

point it has always been for populations who live in symbiosis. But there are signs that this quiet may be deceptive.

"We shall make war on you if you attempt to occupy the disputed zone, because our country is not ready to accept this mockery of a trial. Our ships are on the lookout and will drive you back." In Boudjim, we heard a Guinea-Bissauan soldier utter these bellicose words. Boudjim is a small village in Guinea-Bissau, right on the border with Senegal.

Crossing the southern border between the two countries is no problem. There are no troops in sight and no forest rangers. The inhabitants of the border towns are constantly coming and going. And all these villages are so much like one another that you might think that they all belong to the same country if it were not for the marker that reminds you that there is the border between Senegal and Guinea-Bissau. The people are Diolas, have the same way of life and the same occupations. [passage omitted]

If we are to believe witnesses, who agree, the tension has risen one notch in Bissau itself, the capital. The Christian missionary we met in Kassolol, a village 50 km from Bissau, did not conceal his concern about what he called the Bissau authorities' "verbal escalation." "We feared the worst when, on 3 August (Editor's note: the day after Bissauan authorities rejected the Geneva court ruling), the radio suddenly interrupted its broadcasts to play military music, as if some tragedy had hit the country. The people got excited and we thought a declaration of war was imminent." This missionary is even pleased that Abdou Diouf's visit has been cancelled, as it might have contributed to exacerbating the tension, even to increasing hostility toward the Senegalese.

Another sign reveals that severe steps have been taken in Bissau: the forced enlistment of young men aged 18 to 25, Christian missionaries told us. [passage omitted] Actually, this started before the protest against the arbitration ruling. It came after the discharge of 9,000 veterans of the liberation war. But some have noted a recent intensification of recruitment.

If tension is marked, the Senegalese are not bothered too much yet. According to various witnesses, they continue to attend to their business as usual. A young seminarist from Sebikotane, invited to stay in Guinea-Bissau, told us: "Whenever I went, I was received cordially and courteously. Even though the Guinea-Bissauans never miss a chance to remind us that they are stronger." This feeling of superiority is based on the fact that they had to fight Portugal to free their country, he added.

But most observers, who have not noticed any special preparations, still feel that this is all intimidation on the part of Guinea-Bissau. Garrisons have not yet been put on the alert and just go about their routine business. There are also no troops massed on the border. According to one missionary, "Guinea-Bissau is engaged

in outbidding tactics to persuade Senegal to negotiate and yield part of the territory at stake."

Rear Base

In addition, observers wonder, what resources does Bissau have to go to war? The country's economy is in shambles. There are frequent shortages and social unrest is increasing. For instance, privileged civil servants earn around 45,000 pesos (i.e., 5,000 CFA francs) but a bag of rice costs over 100,000 pesos, or over 11,000 CFA francs. "The country has better things to do than to launch into a war with Senegal," a foreign observer stated.

Ziguinchor is a major supply point for Bissau. The Mpac border post, 19 km from Ziguinchor, is a crossing point for the many trucks carrying food to Bissau. Rice, sugar, fruit, and vegetables as well as coffee are precious commodities for Bissau, which imports them from Ziguinchor. Therefore, according to a customs officer, "all we have to do is shut the border and they will suffocate." Even the inhabitants of border villages acknowledge the vital part played by Senegal in supplying them with staples. They go to Senegalese towns for their food shopping. That is why they prefer dealing in CFA francs, a valued currency in the area. "It is out of the question to accept pesos; they are useless for our transactions," a Kassolol merchant told us.

If Guinea-Bissau is raising its voice, it is mostly because it can play the card of the Casamance independence movement. The members of this movement are out of reach of the Senegalese military in a remote region with a dense forest and marshy islands, where the army cannot track them, and they find a rear base in villages located in Guinea-Bissau territory. Even in the Senegalese villages of Youtou and Santhiaba Manjak, the question of the independence movement is taboo. The people avert their eyes as soon as you say "independence movement." "It is difficult to distinguish between those who are for independence and those who are against, but one thing is certain, the independence movement has a strong following in the region and benefits from complications at several levels," we were told by the man who served us as a guide during our trip on both sides of the border.

In the past few days, at the Mpac border post, some Senegalese were seen going home. The events that occurred between Senegal and Mauritania are still fresh enough in the minds to prevent some people from taking more risks. At the Bissau market, a merchant who chose to pack and leave with three fellow countrymen admitted: "We were getting more and more dirty looks, and merchants are always the first victims when a conflict breaks out. Especially as we are viewed as speculators." But there is still no rush to go back home. The Bissau market is still teeming with Senegalese.

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